Saturday 3 January 1998

70p (IR65p) No 3,498

Yes, it was my son says Straw. But IN TODAY'S PAPER I'm as hard-line on drugs as ever

Jack Straw spoke of his embarrassment yesterday as he was finally identified as the father of the teenager alleged to have sold drugs to a journalist. Michael Streeter and Colin Brown say he will press on with his crusade against crime and to make parents take more responsibility for their children's actions."

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The Home Secretary last night told of his "shock and concern" after learning that his son William faced an accusation of drug dealing after an undercover operation by the Mirror newspaper.

Mr Straw, who has spoken privately of his frustration over his enforced anonymity, said he was now "very relieved" to be able to speak ont after the High Court lifted the ban-onnaming his son,

He agreed that his William, aged 17, who has been accepted for a place at Oxford University, ought to expect no favours from the legal system, hut neither should he suffer more for being the son of a

prominent politician. to me I felt the same emotions circumstances - those of shock and concern.

Being a parent means giving love and support, and when it's necessary - confronting children with their wrong-doing. When a child does wrong, I believe it to be the duly of a parent to act promptly," Mr Straw said.

·His son had gone voluntarily with him to the police and would accept "any sanctions" which arise. He was "of course" embarrassed by this but it did not affect his ability to speak on law and order matters including drugs policy. Neither he nor Downing Street had ever considered him resigning, and last night the Prime Minister's office said he had Tony Blair's full

I have always sought - and so have my colleagues - to conduct our family lives the same way as other people.

These are experiences that uther families have had and so it does not in any way affect my ability to talk on these matters." The naming of Mr Straw as

the father of the arrested youth

Thinking of braving the New

Year sales to buy the PC that.

Christmas? Don't: it may be

sometime between April and

Microsoft plans to launch yet

Windows operating system,

von denied yourself at

worth hanging on a few

The reason is that

June the software giant

another version of its

months longer.

followed an agonising period in which, day by day, the secret trickled out in every bar England and Wales.

After what one opposition MP called "slow torture" for Mr Straw's family, a High Court judge, Mr Justice Toulson, lifted an injunction which banned the media in this country from identifying the youth.

On the day that Scottish newspapers published the minister's identity, the judge asked whether it was sensible or appropriate for the court to maintain opposition in which matters can be published in Greenock but not in Carlisle".

His lifting of an injunction - originally granted at the wish of the Attorney General on Tuesday when the Sun threatened to publish - brought to an end a period not just of uncertainty for the Straws, but also a time of growing confusion

Newspapers in France, Ireland and media all around the world had revealed the identity of Mr Straw who was not named when the Mirror broke the story on Christmas Eve claiming that one of their reporters had bought £10 of cannabis from his 17-year-old son William.

William was arrested and released on police hail. Next week the Crown Prosecution "When the Mirror first spoke Service will decide whether to prosecute. There are indications believes that because of conflicts in evidence of what happened on the night there should be no further action, except possibly a caution for the youth. No decision has bee made yet on the reporter who reportedly received the drugs, Dawn Alford. who was arrested and bailed by police on Monday.

Philip Havers QC, for the Attorney General John Morris, had argued at a private hearing yesterday that the injunction granted by Mr Justice Moses on Tuesday should be continued.

But Mr Justice Toulson said when Mr Justice Moses made his order, the identity of the boy was not widely known and it was now common ground that "there had been a major change of circumstances".

The judge said a French newspaper had used the names and they were also available on the Internet. "The question is whether the stage has now been reached where it would be artificial to pretend that anonymity can be preserved. "

Saturday Story, page 13 Leading article, page 14

provisionally (if

unimaginatively) named

want it on your machine

"Windows98". And if you

then, you'll have to pay for it.

The news is another.

example of the relentless

computer industry, which

could put the fashion world

Most notably, computer

updating typical of the

to shame.



Jack Straw at the Home Office before yesterday's press conference

Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

More Billy Whizz than Jack the Lad

The Christmas period should have heen a particularly happy time for William Straw. He had just been accepted for a place at Oxford University - the letter arrived on Christmas Eve - to read Philosophy, Politics and Economics providing he gets the right grades in his A levels later this year.

Instead this news was completely overshadowed by events in a London pub. when he is alleged to have sold to £10 worth of cannabis to an uncover reporter for the Mirror, a chain reaction which led to yesterday's events.

Thinking of rushing to the sales to buy that computer? Think again

Whatever the truth of those claims and a decision will be made next week on whether he faces any prosecution - these who know him describe William as a "decent, amusing young man". Looking like a trendier version of his father, the 17year-old has a droll sense of humour. strong views of his own and, until this affair, had handled the difficulty of being a "famous son" very well. He has been interested in a career in journalism -

though perhaps less so just at the moment. His family nickname "Whizz", comes not, as has been suggested for drug-re-

spokesman yesterday did say

upgrades: if your PC does not

that there will be no free

have Windows98 you will

The new product will

software presently separate -

Microsoft's Internet Explorer

(1E) browser for surfing Web

integrate many pieces of

such as the Windows95

operating system and

have to buy it.

Computer Life magazine. Jan

Howells, said: "I think people

will be really annoyed. Intel

plan a massive advertising

campaign and Joe Public is

going to say: 'Why wasn'i I

Microsoft is planning a

blitz later this year - though

the price of the software has

nut been decided. But a

told about this before

Christmas?"."

lated reasons, but means "whizz-kid" given to him because he was sufficiently able at school to move up a a year. Unlike other new Labour children, he has been educated at a comprehensive - Pimlico school in south-west London, where he is studying for his A-levels. His father is

chair of the board of governors. His mother is Alice Perkins, a deputy director of public spending at the Treasury. and he has one sister. The family spent Christmus at their Oxfordshire cottage.

 Michael Streeter Legal Affairs Correspondent

sites. Indeed, testers who

have tried Windows98 say

that it seems to make every

resemble an extension of the

Internet. For example, if a

wurd-processing document

contains a Web address (such

then elicking on it will launch

as www.independent.co.uk)

IE and connect you to that

document or program

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Freelance Writer Freelance writing can be fiction and noo-fiction writing.

creative, fulfilling and a lot of The 140,000 word course is wrinen by professional writers and has been acclaimed by

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12 holidays. The

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TIME OFF

music

THE EYE

definitive package

Bask in the winter

much as the Blairs

theatre, clubs and

Plus: films, TV,

sun - but don't pay as

fun, with excellent money to be made as well. What's more, anyone can become a writer. No special qualifications or experience are required. The market for writers is huge.

In Britain alone there are around 1,000 daily, Sunday and weekly papers, and more than 8,000 magazines. Many of the stories and articles that they publish are supplied by freelances. Then there are books, theatre, films, TV, radio...

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TODAY'S NEWS

Frank Muir dies

The veteran comedy writer and broadcaster Frank Muir died yesterday, aged 77. He died in bed after watching Forrest Gump on television. and commending the script. His wife said: "We watched the film together and he really enjoyed it" Report, Page 3; Barry Took, page 16

Gales on the way

companies never seem to be

coincide with Christmas. Last

year Intel, which makes the

chips that power most PCs,

came under fire for delaying

the launch of its MMX chip,

especially able to handle the

"multimedia" requirements

At the time, the editor of

of many games programs,

until January.

able to time anything to

Britain is bracing itself for another lashing from the weather; as the latest in a series of storms approaches from the west. Forecasters expect gales reaching 70mph to combine with driving rain today to produce the worst weather since Christmas Eve. Page 6

Ulster police move

Police action has been intensified in a move to foil loyalist attacks on Catholics in Ulster, the chief constable, Ronnie Flanagan, said. In a separate move, the terrorist suspect Roisin McAliskey was committed for extradition to Germany to face bomb charges. Page 4

The Eye Page 24 and

Web address: http://www. independent.co.uk



Service Time Off, page 2 Time Off, page 12



The Writers Bureau Freepost AF318, Manchester, U.K. M1 BDJ ACCREDITED COL Quality Charge II MEMBER

COLUMN ONE

Dazed and confused, we hurtle towards 2000

As we hurtle towards the Millennium, armed with state-of-the-art technology and all manner of time-saving devices, it is all getting too much. Nearly three-quarters of Britons say they are finding life far too complicated and that unnecessary complexities are making them miserable.

While that time-honoured mystery of "the opposite sex" is still a cause of complication for one in five people and "general changes in society" are making life complex for one in 10, it is the day-to-day tasks of everyday living which are perplexing the majority.

According to a survey commissioned by Abbey National, modern minds are boggled by assembling DIY furniture (42.7 per cent), programming a video recorder (41.9 per cent) and understanding a railway timetable (31.6 per cent). The one thing we find more difficult to cope with than timesaving gadgets is finding the time to meet all our modern-day commitments.

Respondents to the survey hranded professionals "Masters in the Art of Confusion". Lawyers came out worst, with four out of 10 people blaming them for needless complexity. Computer sales people were accused of making even simple explanations mind- numbingly complex. One in 10 charged their bank manager with the same offence.

So-called media buzz-words came if for some flak, too. Fifty per cent of those surveyed said they found the single European currency too confusing to make sense of, 43 per cent found the Millennium Project impossible to understand, and 27.3 per cent could not grasp the fundamentals of BSE. But the good news is that most of us won't be beaten by the complex-

ities of modern living. Rather, we rise to the challenge - each in our own way. Dr David Lewis, a psychologist, has identified five different personality types for dealing with life's complexities. First there is the "DIWhy?", best typified by the Carol Vordermans of this world. "Most of us fall into this category to some extent," said Dr Lewis.

"A determined and dedicated group which tries very hard to make sense out of even the most complicated issues. When they succeed they feel a great sense of achievement - but can be quite serious." To the "Juggler", complexity equals fun. To these Chris Evans-like characters, the more demanding the lifestyle, the better. "They don't take com-

plexity seriously and so live life to the full - though sometimes people find it hard to take them seriously," said Dr Lewis. The "Hippy Go-lucky" hopes that by not looking at something, it will go away. He or she makes no attempt to understand anything which looks

or sounds the least hit complicated. Step forward the "Joker", the one who is "great fun at a party, cheerily going through life without believing anything is the least hit complicated." "They don't tend to get an awful lot done, but what they do, they do with

a smile on their face," said Dr Lewis. Then there is the "Delegator". Delegators make sure they have a lot of "DIWhys?" amongst their friends. "This group believes that life's complications should be dealt with by someone else on their behalf."

Your Money

The Big Picture

Crossword ...

Weather

Gardening

TV & radio

Travel

Italy (lira)

Japan (yen)

Malta (fira)

Netherlands (guilders)

Norway (kroner)

Portugal (escudos)

Spain (pesetas)

Turkey (lira)

USA (\$)

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 41,4% of the raw material for UK

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Switzerland (francs)

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12.28

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newspapers in the first helf of 1997.

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TOURIST RATES

Australia (dollars)

Austria (schillings)

Belgium (francs)

Cyprus (pounds)

France (francs)

Hong Kong (\$)

Ireland (punts)

Denmark (kroner)

Germany (marks) Greece (drachmei)

Canada (\$)

--- Clare Garner

21-22

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The Eye

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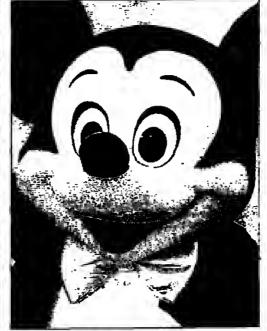
325,847

Source: Thomas Cool

Time Off, 14-24

PEOPLE





Taking the Mickey: Peter Mandelson and his mentor for the Millennium Experience

Mandelson goes in search of Mickey's magic

Peter Mandelson, the minister without portfolio, is depicting life in 11 countries as visualised by the dea fact-finding mission for the Millennium Experience. The prospect of a postcard from "Mandy" about his meeting with Mickey Mouse has Westminster agog. meet the Florida fire regulations.

The Millennium Dome is unlikely to sprout two hig black ears even if Mr Mandelson, finds it hard to avoid a photo-opportunity with the most famous resident of Disneyworld.

The minister is keen to avoid suggestions that the Millennium Experience is going to be turned into a Disney theme park or a Mickey Mouse project.

The aim of his visit to the world-famous tourist attractions in Orlando, Florida, is to learn some of the lessons for attracting millions of visitors to the Millennium Dome in Greenwich. He is due to visit the Magic Kingdom, Typhoon Lagoon and the MGM studios where the films were made, hut Mr Mandelson is likely to spend more time in the Epcot Centre with its "future world" pavilions of the

Living Seas, the Universe of Energy and the Land. He will also see the "world showcase" at Epcot he had Mickey's magic wand from Fantasia. (experimental prototype community of tomorrow)

visiting Disneyworld and the Epcot centre today on signers of Disney, including a typical English puh, the Rose and Crown, and a mock-up of Anne Hathaway's cottage with thatched roof made of plastic to

The Elizabethan Olde Worlde, red telephone boxes, and the Lords and Ladies china shop may be as remote from reality as the Never Never Land in Disney movies, but Mr Mandelson is looking at the way the message is put across as much as the content.

Having persuaded the Cabinet not to cancel the Milleooium exhibitinn, Mr Mandelson has appeared vague about what he intends to put in it. A select committee reported: "From what we know so far, the Millennium Experience is not so much a journey through time as ... a journey into the unknown."

Mr Mandelson may learn that it took even the skilled practitioners of fantasy at Disney took at least a decade to make their centres the success they are today. With only two years to go before the Millennium Experience is opened, he may return wishing

- Colin Brown

Phoenix and Cobain to live again in US novel

the two tragic heroes of Nineties teenagers, have appeared together is a temporary desert river. as fictional characters in a novel by the cult film director Gus Van

Van Sant, who directed Phoenix in My Own Private Idaho,

Phoenix, who died outside a nightcluh after taking heroin and

Latin for "happy" and an arroyo

and his wife, Courtney Love, the to get in character for the heroin actress and singer. Cobain was a addict he played in My Own Priand was part of the Pacific North heroin addict who with Nirvana de- vate Idaho. But now the The Los West underground scene with Nir- fined the grunge sound and look Angeles Times has described the vana lead singer Cobain, has just of the early Nineties. He commit-novel as a "posthumous love leta novel for the ted suicide by shooting himself in ter to River Phoenix". American "chemical generation". a Seattle hotel room in 1995.

A chapter with the Internetstyle title Pink.Alt.Universe deals decays, and then he says is "decocaine in 1993, becomes the drug with the flight by Blackie and stroyed cruelly like drowning a litburn-out Felix Arroyo, the star Spunky from the Cloudy-Bright tle puppy after you are tired of weird commercials made by a Rehab Center. "I'm interpreting playing with it." character called Spunky, who Van parts of real-life experiences into

River Phoenix and Kurt Cobain. Sant has hased on himself. Felix is this sort of more fanciful collage," says Van Sant of the book.,

Van Sant was blamed by some A rock couple. Blackie and of River Phoenix's fans for the ac-Blake, are based on Van Sant's tor's death because it was believed real-life acquaintances. Cobain that Phoenix started taking drugs

> In Van Sant's book, pink is the colour film turns when it fades and

- Paul McCann

Anthea Turner announces marriage split

Showbiz couple Anthea Turner and Peter Powell yesterday announced they are to separate after eight years of marriage. A statement by solicitor and close friend between Grant and me was borne out of circumstance Mark Stephens revealed that the split was amicable and our emotional response to it has been beyond and that Ms Turner is now in a new relationship.

She spoke about her marriage in the statement and said: "We began as lovers and somewhere along the way work became our abiding passion. The hreakdown of a warm and loving marriage is too high a price to pay for apparent success."

She went on to disclose how her relationship with Grant Bovey began and said: "What has happened the cootrol of either of us." She said that she bitterly regrets the hurt caused to others and said she accepts her share of responsibility.

Mr Powell said in the statement: "I have always loved Anthea and I will continue to do so. She will always have my support."

UPDATE

HEALTH

Experts sound hi-fi warning

Christmas gifts of powerful hi-fis and personal stereos could leave proud owners with more than the sound of sweet music, health experts have warned. Tinnitus Action, which represents nearly five million adults who suffer from constant noises in the head, wants hi-fi equipment to carry timuitus danger warnings and has sent tapes of tormenting noises to Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, and William Hague, the Tory leader.

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Tinnitus results in permanent head sounds, heard by no one hut the sufferer, range from hisses to noises like an electric drill, banging metal or high-pitched whistles. Any sound louder than 85 decibels can cause tinnitus, either immediately or after a delay. Often the noises stay for life. Majorie Hooper, chairman of Tinnitus Action, said: "Anyone of any

age would be delighted to receive hi-fi equipment or the latest in personal stereos as presents, without giving a thought to the serious dangers involved. "It is troubling that such items intended for pleasure can, for some, be an introduction to one of the commonest and potentially extremely serious

medical conditions." She said some 600,000 people in the UK already have tinnitus so badly that their quality of life is affected. The popularity of loud music has been identified as one cause of the trouble.

"Mr Blair and Mr Hague are both pop music fans, so it is apt that they should know the sort of ... sounds now awaiting unsuspecting people, as

well as those experienced already by a huge number of the electorate. "It is time politicians took timitus seriously and gave it priority in research and treatment, instead of leaving it as the Cinderella of the NHS."



HEALTH

More baby Dianas after Paris death

The number of babies named Diana increased dramatically in the weeks following the death of the Princess of Wales -- although Diana still did not make it into 1997's top 50 names for girls.

For most of last year an average of three babies a month were named Diana, but in September, 29 girls became namesakes of the Princess. Chloe claimed the number one spot, followed by Emily, Sophie, Jessica and Megan, according to the Office of National Statistics, which released its annual charts yesterday. Besides Diana's death, another event which appears to have influenced parents' choices occurred in EastEnders. Grant Mitchell, the soap's bad-boy, and his barmaid wife Tiffany's choice of the name Courtney for their daughter may account for the fact that this year Courtney appears in the top 50 for the first time, leaping 34 places to number 20. Another explanation might be the fact that actress Courtney Loye, widow of Nirvana star Kurt Cohain, has cleaned up her image.

Boys' names remained far more consistent than girls', with Jack remaining the most popular boys' name for the third year running. The new entry, Joe, at 49, could be attributed to the rising fame of EastEnders heart throb Paul Nicholls, who played the disturbed but appealing Joe in the BBC soap

TOP 20 GIRLS' TOP 20 BOYS' **NAMES IN 1997 NAMES IN 1997** I) Chloe 2) James 2) Emily 3) Sophie 3) Thomas 4) Daniel 4) Jessica 5) Megan 5) Joshua 6) Hannah 6) Matthew 7) Rebecca 7) Samuel 8) Joseph 8) Lauren 9) Charlotte 9) Ryan 10) Georgia 10) Jordan tl) Luke II) Amy 12) Lucy (2) Connor (3) Emma (3) Liam H) Bethany (4) Benjamin 15) Katie 15) Callum (6) Shannon (6) Alexander (7) Harry (7) Laura 18) Olivia 18) George (9) Eleanor

SOCIETY

Teenagers put cash before rebellion

Britain's teenagers are planning a very sensible 1998, according to research released yesterday by NatWest. The most popular New Year's resolution among 12- to 18-year-olds is to look after their money, followed closely

by giving up smoking, and concentrating on their homework.

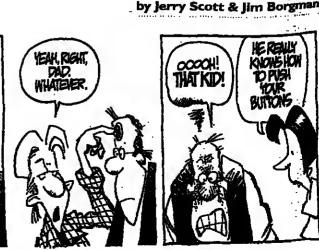
After greater fiscal discipline, teenagers most wanted to stop smoking, do better at school, stop biting their nails and eat fewer sweets. Further down the list, but very topical, was a desire to give up taking drugs. Other items on the adolescent wish-list included finding a new boyfriend or girlfriend and behaving better.

However, despite a range of very unrebellious ambitions such as being more tidy, the number of teenagers pledging to reform themselves in 1998 has dropped since last year. In 1996 57 per cent of teenagers made a New Year's resolution, this year the figure is 53 per cent.

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To the way . . .





There's only one Buddy, says Sheikh

As if Bill Clinton didn't have enough on his plate, legally speaking, he now faces the prospect of litigation hrought by a most unusual plaintiff. Claiming psychological distress and loss of earnings, Shiekh Buddy Rasheed of Jordan yesterday announced his intention to sue the US President.

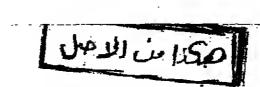
Shiekh Buddy, (pictured, right, with white camel) who is the mayor of the town of Bassilya, said he was looking for lawyers in the US or Europe to represent him in the damages case, which he plans to hring because the President named his new First Dog "Buddy". As a consequence, the Sheikh says. he has lost his "prestigious and unique image" in the community, now that he is no longer the one and only Buddy.

But on holiday in the Virgin Islands yesterday, President Clinton seemed unruffled by the Sheikh's threat. He and his family celebrated New Year at the private Sand Dollar villa in St Thomas and plan to return to Washington tomorrow. And of course, the President has been proudly walking his Buddy on the beach each day.



SO YOU SEE, LEREMY, I'M NOT TRYING TO IMPOSE MY WILL ON YOU...





TAKING LONTROL Feeling that your life is out of control is the biggest modern anxiety. From Monday and throughout next week we address the question of how to get your life under control. Don't start the week without it.



Exclusive: a century in photographs - 98 years, 98 pictures

Espionage mystery as riddle of sunken trawler unravels

An 'unsinkable' trawier went down 23 years ago with all 36 hands on board in mysterious circumstances. Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, reports that the Government will pay for an underwater survey which could solve the enigma of the Gaul.

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After a cover-up lasting nearly a quarter of a century surrounding the mysterious disappearance of the Gaul, an "unsinkahle" high-tech factory trawler, ministers have decided to fund an underwater survey which could solve the mystery of how and why it went down with all hands on board.

Relatives of the 36 crew who lost their lives have been fighting since the ship was lost in 1974 for successive governments to find the sunken trawler and discover why it sank almost without trace, and without issuing a distress signal.

They suspect it may have been on a spying mission, during which it was sunk by a Soviet torpedo. Successive governments denied that trawlers some time after the trawler were used for spying, although around the port in Hull, where to locate the vessel, and they rethe deep sea fleet was based, fused to carry dut a search. The that crews were routinely asked families campaigned in vain to report on Soviet submarine until last year a survey was ear- has authorised a new camera the Government admitted that there had been a cover-up.

Alan Johnson, one of the Hull MPs - who include John Prescott, now the Secretary of State responsible for shipping inquiries - who has campaigned for the Government to act, told the Commons in December

wrote to the relatives in 1974 saying: "I can assure you that the British trawler fleet is not involved in any way in any intelligence gathering." That as-

surance was repeated in 1992. The cover-up over the use of trawlers for spying ended when defence ministers admitted in written Commons answers last month that trawlers had been used "for specific intelligence gathering operations against the former Soviet navy" in the 1960s and early 1970s. Lord Rogers says he was misled.

"At the time there was also a scheme whereby Royal Navy officers gained sea going experience in merchant ships, including deep sea trawlers. All RN personnel were encouraged to report back any opportunity sightings of interest as indeed were the trawlermen," said John Reid, the defence minister.

There was a suspicion among some of the Gaul families that ministers in previous governments had been reluctant to anthorise the search for the Gaul because they feared its discovery would disclose the truth about its secret spying mission.

The only trace of the ship was a lifebuoy which was found went missing. Ministers insisted ports of where the ship might have gone down and sonar technology, it was located in two days 270 meters down on the

that Lord Rogers, then the Gaul found that it was Labour's defence minister, probably overwhelmed in heavy seas in a storm.

> But in a Commons debate to plead for Government intervention last month, Mr Johnson said the Gaul was only two years old when it sank. Its safety features included a dual radar system, automatic steering, high quality radio and telegraphy equipment. It had an experienced skipper and crew, and the vessel and crew were familiar with Arctic conditions.

Underwater cameras found the Gaul almost intact, with all its windows in place, and it was facing into the direction of the prevailing weather at the time it disappeared.

Glenda Jackson, the transport minister, said there was no evidence that the Gaul had been sunk by enemy fire. "The fact that panes of glass were still intact and the absence of damage to the other paris rule out an explosion. high-impact damage or attack by any form of weapon." she said.

The Ministry of Defence said that the use of trawlers for counter-espionage ceased in 1973 - a year before the Gaul went down. Ms Jackson told the Commons the Gaid "played no part in intelligence-gathering activities".

would agree to a further survey it was common knowledge that it would be too expensive of the vessel in the spring, when the weather improved.

that the Deputy Prime Minister over our competitors - even if sightings. Just before Christmas, ried out for the Channel Four survey, costing around £100,000, programme Dispatches at a cost of the Gaul. It will concentrate of less than £50,000. Using re- on the stern, where nets prevented the Channel Four cameras from a thorough search. The fresh survey may find that the stern "door" was left open seabed in the Barents sea, 60 and the vessel was overwhelmed miles off the coast of Norway. by inrushing seas, like the ferry An inquiry into the loss of the Herald of Free Enterprise.



Under fire: Pierce Brosnan plays spy hero in the latest 007 spectacular Tomorrow Never Dies, while real-life espionage continues in a lower key

So who are our spies snooping on today?

When William Waldegrave, a former Foreign Office minister, spoke yesterday of "tapes of what some foreign leader said in his bath", he wasn't joking.

Britain's Secret Intelligence The minister hinted that she Service. MI6, would not hesitate to try to listen in on any conversation, intercept any mail or not have to be hostile and it can they are safe; there's no point hack into any computer if it sometimes be to the benefit of us sharing highly sensitive in-asked not to be named, said: The Independent has learned would give the country an edge

> they happen to be our friends Intelligence experts were staggered vesterday that anyone should be at all surprised at M16 conducting secret operations against Britain's European Union partners.

> "That's its job," said Nigel West, an intelligence historian. "The Secret Intelligence Service costs £900m a year and if it couldn't assist ministers in finding out what other states are up to, then it wouldn't be worth the

The targets in modern-day espionage, aside from drug trafficking and money laundering. are primarily political and economic rather than military. If a British minister has to enter negotiations with other countries. he wants to know what their positions will be before he enters

If that means bugging the home of a senior foreign official or an EU commissioner, then, with ministerial permission, its operatives will do it.

They recruit contacts inside government departments and. using Britain's electronic listening station GCHQ, they pick up whatever conversations

During the Seventies, in ad- the country being observed," formation with them if they're "The minister would have to vance of a round of talks on the sovereignty of Gibraltar, a bug was found inside the private office of the Spanish prime min-

put there by a British spy.

said Mr West.

"If we intercepted something which showed, for example, that French communication destine "Intelligence gathering does we have to listen in to make sure the Foreign Secretary.

going to let it out. The process is controlled by the Joint Intelligence Committee, but a clanelectronic

ister. It is thought to have been systems were not secure, then eavesdropping operation would France would be grateful. But require personal approval from

An intelligence source, who

weigh the value of the information that might be gleaned against the potential embarrassment of heing caught.

"But the other countries do it to us, too. It's all part of the game and the rewards for the winner can be immeasurable."

— Steve Boggan

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Long haul: Hull MP Alan Johnson who backed the Goul families

Photograph: John Voos

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Frank Muir, a king of comedy, dies

Frank Muir, one of the great post-war television and radio comedy writers, died yesterday. David Lister reviews the career of a humorist who became disillusioned with the humour of today.

With his six-foot-six-inch frame, mellifluous voice, bright pink bow ties and bushy RAF moustache, Frank Muir, who died vesterday at the age of 77, is a figure etched in the memory of viewers of such television series as Call My Bluff.

But Muir's greatest talent was not in front of the cameras, but as one of the most successful comedy scriptwriters and producers of the television and radio age. His partnership with



Frank Muir: Brought classic comedies to TV and radio

Dennis Norden produced the radio sitcom classic Take It From Here and television series such as Wacko, as well as classic sketches for Peter Sellers.

After the Muir-Norden partnership ended in 1964 and Norden went on to take a greater writing to the end."

role in front of the cameras, Muir did some of his most important work, becoming assistant head of comedy for the for London Weekend Television. He became executive producer of such classics as and Son. The Rag Trade. All Gas er of knitwear. and Gaiters, Till Death Us Do Part, On the Buses, Please Sir!, and Not Only ... But Also. He began scriptwriting during service in the Second World War when he became involved with broadcasting to the troops.

Frank Muir died in bed hours after spending an evening watching the film Forrest Gump on television, and commending the script, his wife Polly, 72, said yesterday. "We watched the film together and he thoroughly enjoyed it," she said. "He maintained an interest in comedy

Mrs Muir said she was with her husband when he died, just after mid-day. She had since broken the news to their two BBC and then head of comedy children. Their son Jamic is a television arts producer and their daughter Sally, married to journalist Geoffrey Wheatcroft, Hancock's Half Hour, Suptoe has for 18 years been a design-

Muir's death comes three months after he published his memoirs, A Kentish Lad. In a recent interview, Muir

lamented the changes to both television comedy and television in general. He said: "I see some smartarse sitcom, like Men Behaving Badly, and then I see Dad's Army, or Till Death Us Do Part ... and the craftsmanship is infinitely greater."Dennis Norden said vesterday: "He was like a brother to me. Nothing is adequate to express my feelings."

Obituary by Barry Took, page 16

Mowlam steps up security in Ulster

As 150 Republican and Loyalist inmates released on parole for Christmas filed back into the Maze high security prison yesterday, the RUC announced that troops were being ordered back onto the streets of Ulster. Louise Jury in Belfast heard Mo Mowlam back a new security clampdown

Describing the factional killing and worsening security situation in the province as "serious" hut "not out of control". Mo Mowlam, the Sccretary of State for Northern Ireland, insisted she was not intending to resign. Instead she announced the stepping up of se-fears are not realised. The best curity and an extended investigation into operational policy at the Maze.

Just one month after daytime military patrols in support of the police were stopped, RUC chiefs decided to reintroduce them when necessary as part of fresh measures to try to thwart hit-and-run lovalist gunmen shooting Catholics in revenge for the INLA murder of Loyalist Volunteer Force chief. Billy Wright.

After separate attacks which left two Catholics dead and up prisoner Seamus Dillon, 46, to a dozen more injured in Belfast and Dungannon, the fear now is that a vicious tit-fortat shooting war could erupt between rival loyalist and republican factions not on ceasefire. The doomsday scenario envisages other groups being drawn into the fray, including the IRA, which is

sticking to its truce. Last night, Ms Mowlam announced that she would hold an urgent round of meetings with leaders of all the main political parties in Belfast, starting next Monday, in advance of the resumption of the Stormont negotiations on 12 January.

Speaking after talks with Ronnie Flanagan, the Royal Ulster Constabulary chief constable, Ms Mowlam also backed the setting up of security patrols. She said she had repeatedly expressed her desire to see a reduction in security activity and a return to normality as soon as

But she said they had been able to increase security very quickly in response to the "irresponsible, cruel and utterly futile" acts of recent violence.

"The deplorable events of the past few days have raised fears in both communities. Real fears which do not go away easily," she said.

We as government will do all we can to make sure these day to do this and to establish confidence is by making the talks process work. The situation now is serious hut it is not out of control."

Ronnie Flanagan appealed for the public's help in preventing further attacks.

'We have had dreadful murders in recent days and sadly I cannot say that is the last murder we are going to witness. But it must be kept in propor-

Doormen and former IRA was shot within hours of the murder of Billy Wright. Eddie Treanor, 31, a civil servant with no Republican ties, was murdered in a har on New Year's

The Loyalist Volunteer Force claimed responsibility for both attacks although suspicions have been raised that more mainstream loyalist para militaries such as the Ulster Defence Association might have helped the LVF carry out Wednesday's attack.



Bernadette McAliskey outside Bow Street magistrates' yesterday after her daughter Roisin was committed for extradition Photograph: PA

Court commits McAliskey for extradition

The IRA terrorist suspect Roisin McAliskey was yesterday committed for extradition to Germany to face

bombing charges. Nicholas Evans, stipendiary magistrate sitting at Bow Street Court in central London, gave the go-ahead.

Her lawyers said the decision will clear the way for Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, to decide on extensive legal arguments urging him to stop the extradition.

Miss McAliskey, 26, is wanted by German authorities as an alleged memher of an IRA unit that mortar-bombed a British Army harracks in Osnabruck in June 1996.

During a 20-minute hearing, Mr Evans told the court: "In the par-

health, I now commit her on her absence to await the decision of the Secretary of State about her extradition to Germany.

Her supporters, many of whom were outside court waving banners protesting her innocence, claim that since her arrest 14 months ago, police and prosecutors have yet to cstablish her whereabouts at the time of the bombing.

They argue that there is a "mass" of documentary and eye-witness evidence confirming her presence in Northern Ireland on the dates when the woman sought by the police was sighted in Germany.

McAliskey, who denies any involvement in the mortar attack, was ticular circumstances of this case, arrested at her home in Coalisland, talling £100,000 was £30,000 given by fence and 1 helieve we will resolve bearing in mind McAliskey's state of Co Tyrone, in November 1996 when the writer and broadcaster Jeremy this matter fairly."

pregnant, and was detained as a highrisk prisoner in Holloway and Belmarsh Prisons in London, Last May. three days before her haby was born, she was released on hall by a High Court Judge and has been staying at a mother-and-baby unit at the

where she is being treated for post-

traumatic stress disorder. the condition that she resides 24 hours a day in a hospital mother-andbaby unit; that a surety of £100,000 is taken: that a £95,000 security is deposited with solicitors; and that she agrees to consent to all future med-

ical and psychiatric reports. Included in the five sureties to-

Hardy. Lin Soloman, a human rights campaigner, also provided a surety of £30,000 in court.

Speaking outside court, Mr Hardy said he was not particularly optimistic about Mr Straw's forthcoming decision."We fear that the Government Maudslev Hospital, south London, is so desperate to please loyalists that they will use Roisin as a sacrifice. I am not optimistic, but Mr Straw has Yesterday's hail was granted on evidence that Roisin is unwell and evidence that she is innocent."

Afterwards, Miss McAliskey's mother, the former mid-Ulster MP Bernadette McAliskey, who was in court said they were now eagerly awaiting Mr Straw's decision.

"My daughter is innocent," she said. "She is not charged with any of-

Companies must open staff files

Soon you will have the right to look at every scrap of personal information your boss holds on you. Barrie Clement, Labour Editor, hears advice that companies should make an early start on 'spring cleaning' their records or face the threat of legal action from employees.

It is a rare manager who harbours no ill will to at least some of his staff. In future, however, he or she would do well to keep derogatory opinions about employees to themselves - or at least refrain from committing them to paper.

Within the next few weeks, ministers intend to publish the Data Protection Bill, which will substantially enhance workers' rights to scrutinise their personal records, get them put right if necessary and in cases of serious error, enable them to take their bosses to court. Some managers routinely keep notes on staff which accuse them of a wide range of social unpleasantries from being a hahitual fibber to being the main source of office odours.

More seriously, records may contain accusations of kleptomania or sexual harassment. Unless there is proof of such unlawful activities, an organisation could find itself embroiled in a libel suit.

Records may contain inaccurate information which affects an employee's pay, promotion and prospects, says Angela Edward, a policy adviser at the Institute of Personnel Development. "Employees will have the right to know what information employees keep on them and how it is used," she said.

Workers are already protected under the 1984 Data Protection Act, but its provisions cover computer records only. Under this law, there is no financial redress, simply a right to have information corrected where necessary. The legislation was, however, seen to he inadequate under European directives and the current Bill has been drawn up with a view to introducing stricter rules by October.

Warning that there could be serious financial implications for employers found keeping inaccurate information, Ms Edward advised companies "to act now". She emphasised the need for employees to check information that had been gathered, particularly informal records.

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Rapist may have put drug in woman's drink

A woman who was raped near a nightcluh may have accepted a drink which had been spiked,

police said yesterday.
Officers are investigating the possibility that the woman was fed the so-called "date-rape drug" Rohypnol, which incapacitates women to the point where they are unable to resist their attackers.

The 20-year-old woman told police that, two days before Christmas, she accepted an offer of a drink from a man at the Rumbarbar nightclub in London's Trocadero Centre, but felt ill soon after drinking it. She went outside into the street, and believes she was then followed outside, where she was raped,

possibly by more than one man. The victim then wandered the streets "in a confused state" for several hours before going home, where she told friends what had happened. They then

called the police.

A Scotland Yard spokeswoman said: "Tests showed she did not have an excessive level of alcohol in her hloodstream, so it is quite possible she may have been drugged. Toxicology tests are being done ... but we must keep an open mind."

Rohypnol, nicknamed Roofie, is a legal anaesthetic 10 times more powerful than Valium sometimes prescribed for back pain. It is manufactured by Swiss pharmaceutical giant Roche and is not available through the NHS, although it is sold in private clinics. Last month, a charity was set

up, the Roofie Foundation, to comhat misuse of the drug which is claimed to have been used on hundreds of women in the UK and the US, where it is now illegal. To combat the threat, Roche

is developing a new tablet form which turns a bright hlue colour when dissolved in any liquid.

The man who bought the woman the drink is described as white, about 6 ft tall, and of medium build. Anyone with any information can call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Video burglars put themselves in the frame

Burglars who videoed themselves committing more than 30 crimes were horrified when their films went on general release - to the police. Surprised officers discovered the tapes during a routine search at one of the men's homes in Glas-

cote, Tamworth. Staffordshire. The tapes, which were edited, subtitled and dubbed with music, showed burglaries, vandalism and breaking and en-

Detective Constable Nick Longman of Tamworth CID said the police found the tapes while they were investigating an unrelated matter and suspicions were aroused by the titles.

"Some interest was expressed about the videos because of their titles and officers' suspicions were aroused when they tried to keep them away from them," he said. "I've never come across anything like this before. They

must have some equipment somewhere as they've done a proper joh, but I don't think they'll be doing it again in a burry. I think they've learnt their lesson." Mr Longman said the pair had filmed each other break-

ing into derelict and unfinished properties, smashing up huildings and committing hurgiaries. The men, who have not been named, are in their 20s, and have been bailed while investigations continue.

Farm arsonist starts three fires in 24 hours

A farm arsonist is feared to have started three more blazes in the last 24 hours. Fifteen blazes have now been started since September on farms in south-east Cornwall - with damage estimated about £750,000.

Now there are fears that farmers may turn to vigilante action to catch the arsonist. Anthony Gibson, regional director of the National Farmers' Union, said yesterday: "Farmers are so angry there is talk of organising sbotgun patrols."

Keith Barrett, whose barn was set ahlaze yesterday, said that some farmers who found someone on their property "will act first and ask questions afterwards". Mr Barrett, who farms near Duloe, went on: "It could be

life at risk next time." The fire was only yards from occupied holiday cottages.

Half an hour earlier, a store and contents were destroyed by fire three miles away at Pelyut, near Looe. And on New Year's Day £50,000 worth of damage was caused in another barn fire at Kellow farm, near Looe, said the police.

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

The owner of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang is to meet with engineering experts to investigate ways of making the famous car more environmentally friendly.

Nearly 30 years after the film starring Dick Van Dyke and Sally Ann Howes made the vehicle famous, Pierre Picton plans to meet with engineers at Ford to discuss ways of converting the car, powered by a 3-litre Ford V6, to run on unleaded fuel. Speaking from his home in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire. Mr Picton said the car, which runs on four-star, could be converted in time for its 30th hirthday celebrations later this year. He said: "When the engine's done she will be more environmentally friendly and that will be better for all the children that come to see her."

BBC pulls plug on Noel's House Party

Mystery surrounded the can-cellation of the BBC's flagship entertainment show Noel's House Party yesterday when the plug was pulled on this evening's show just 24 hours before it was to be broadcast.

The BBC would only say it was "due to circumstances beyond our control".

Television industry rumours immediately started to circulate that the programme had been cancelled after a dispute between Mr Edmonds and the BBC over the format and production of the show.

The BBC even refused to comment on whether the highrating show would be back next week or ever again.

Edmonds was not available for comment. Inquiries were referred back to the BBC.

Edmonds owns the format of the programme and is said to have full control. In November. he stepped in to replace the producer.

He was quoted as saying: "By my standards, the show was not as good as it should have

A source close to Edmonds said last night: "Noel is fine - he has not been sacked."

The BBC will repeat The Best of Noel's House Party instead. Tonight's programme had already been promnted along with the rest of the evening's schedule.

Edmonds is one of the BBC's most popular personalities and figured heavily in its Christmas schedule. His House Party regularly tops 10 million viewers and is one of the BBC's few shows that can compete with Cilla Black's Blind Date on ITV. Combined with Casualty. Noel's House Party has regularly helped the BBC to win the battle for audience share on Saturday nights.

If the show is gone for good, it will blow a major hole in its programming schedule and would make a tempting format

— Paul McCann Media Correspondent

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Gales roar in at 70mph to bring a week of rain

Torrential rain and gales reaching 70mph battered western parts of Britain vesterday, unleashing havoc on travellers and householders.

South-west England, the North and Scotland were hardest-hit by the heavy winds. Among the casualties was a 22,000tonne tanker which was blown onto the rocks off the coast of Devon, sending trees crashing down and blacking out hundreds of homes.

Cross-Channel sailings between Newhaven and Dieppe were cancelled and there were several road accidents as motorists struggled to control their vehicles on rain-soaked roads. A mother from Cirencester. Gloucestershire, was heing treated in hospital vesterday after the family's car was in collision with another vehicle during 70mph gales. Her parents and baby, who were also in the car, were killed in what police described as "a head-on collision in appalling weather".

The ferocious winds are expected to die down tomorrow, hut forecasters warned

that rain and showers will continue across the country into next week. The only consolation is that the torrential rain has at last eased the threat of another severe drought in the South-east this year. Some areas have had more than one and a half inches of rain in just 24 hours and reservoirs in Kent and Sussex are almost full.

At the beginning of the autumn, the Environment Agency warned that one-anda-half times the normal amount of rainfall would be needed in Kent and East Sussex to stave off the threat of drought this year. A spokesman said yesterday: "That rainfall has now arrived. The aquifers - natural underground reservoirs - which over 70 per cent of the region relies upon for its water supplies have started at long last to recover." The agency also urged people not to dump their Christmas trees into water courses. "In the past trees thrown away in this fashion have caused blockages to grilles and other river structures which in turn has led to flooding," a spokesman said.





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Advertisers stir up a war with BBC

A television ratings war is set to break out after powerful advertisers urged the ITV network to measure itself only against the BBC. Paul McConn, Media Correspondent, explains the background to the

ITV has been issued with a warning from advertising agencies to boost its falling ratings by taking on the BBC rather increase the total number of than trying to compete with Channel 4 and Channel 5.

battle for our control

buttons.

The Institute of Practitioners in Advertising, the trade mean they pay more per viewbody for the advertising and media-buying industry, has asked ITV's new chief executive above the rate of inflation over Richard Evre to create a "benchmark" level of ITV viewing figures against the BBC.

When Mr Eyre joined ITV from Capital Radio in the autumn he asked advertisers to give him 100 days to devise a strategy for ITV's revival. He will be presenting that strategy later this month.

While he is believed to he planning an assault on BBC1 in particular, Mr Eyre is thought to be unwilling to set a speciflikelihood of the BBC raising its game in response.

taking on the BBC by stealing a number of ideas and senior hroadcasters from the corporation, including Grant Mansfield, the man behind "real people" programme successes such as The Driving School and Airport. He has also hired David Baddiel and Frank Skinner to their popular Fantasy Football.

Advertisers are pressing for the assault on the BBC because ITV's share of viewing has fallen rapidly in the last five years to under 34 per cent as satellite and cable channels have stolen viewers. While ITV has been slipping the BBC has managed to hold onto its share of about 41 per cent when both BBC 1 and BBC 2 are added together.

The IPA is worried that ITV may try to bolster its audience share by taking viewers from Channel 4 and Channel 5 rather than the BBC. They are against this because it does nothing to viewers who see their adverts. Advertisers pay for airtime on ITV in a bizarre way that can

seen their media costs rise well the last three years. Mr Eyre was appointed by

ITV and given sweeping careutive powers following criticism from advertisers that the network's federal system meant hig players such as Carlton, Granada and United News & Media were competing more with each other than with external rivals.

As competition from new hroadcasters has eaten into their audience share commeric target for taking viewers cial broadcasters have become from the BBC hecause of the increasingly angry about what they see as the popularisation of the BBC's schedules. ITV Mr Eyre has prepared for and some of its advertisers have criticised the BBC for winning a renewal of its Charter by promising distinct programming not seen on other channels. Instead, they argue, the BBC is competing directly with commercial channels with massmarket soap operas, games shows and fly on the wall "real present a World Cup version of people" television programmes.

Street crime wave blamed on truants

Forty per cent of all street rob- 21 per cent could not write their beries and a third of car thefts name and address properly. A and burglaries in London are further 48 per cent could not committed hy truants, it emerged yesterday.

Now Tony Blair is to launch a campaign against truants after being shown evidence of a youngsters' crime wave.

. Studies have revealed that the culprits are mainly boys who lose interest in lessons because of poor literacy skills.

The Prime Minister has ordered the Downing Street social 'through interviews with ofexclusion unit - set up last month to devise new solutions to the problems of poverty - to think up new ways to tackle truancy. Sir Paul Condon, Metro-

nolitan Police Commissioner. told the unit that most of the offences took place during school hours, according to reports.

The unit was also shown figures from the Basic Skills Agency which reveal low educational standards among offenders aged 17-25. Interviews with 500 such offenders showed

write their name and address and give more than two pieces of information about them-

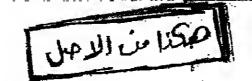
selves without making mistakes. About half had difficulty telling the time and giving the days of the week or the months of the year in the right order. Only 30 per cent could fill in a job application form.

The survey was carried ont fenders from towns and rural areas in Shropshire.

About 90 per cent said they had heen truants at some stage during their school career and 64 per cent said they were hahitual truants, absent for a day or more a week soon after starting secondary school.

The average age when truanting started was 12 to 13, and 55 per cent said they committed crimes while absent from the classroom.

Trevor Phillips, page 15



JUNE

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graph: Richard Austr

speaker Farman Force crainers are pressing in the BBC formation the BBC formation of viewing has a few farmation for the last there. e the fotal numbe: who we their adm hers pay for airtime a bigatte was their her pay more pervis aings fail, and the me gere media como tre ac the rate of inflationies

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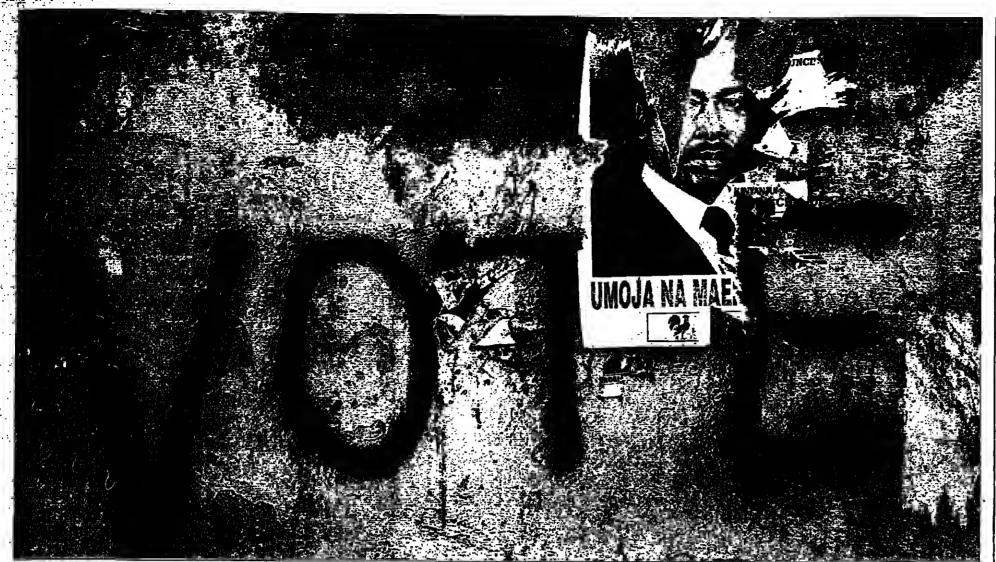
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9/AFRICA



Writing on the wall: Election graffiti and a peeling poster for Daniel arap Moi in Nairobi yesterday. President Moi iss favourite to win

Kaunda's lawyers demand speedy trial or release

Lawyers for the former Zambian president Kenneth Kaun-da, accused of fomenting a failed coup in October, yesterday demanded in a Lusaka court for an easing of his house arrest and a speedy trial, or his release.

Britain, meanwhile, cancelled the Foreign Office minister Tony Lloyd's trip to Zambia to protest against the government's actions. "It would be wrong for me to visit so long as Mr Kaunda remains in custody but uncharged, and in the absence of a commitment from the Zamhian authorities that will be able to see him," Mr Lloyd said.

At the court, Mr Kaunda, 73, said the government, not he, was on trial and urged his backers not to be hitter. By speaking, he may have technically violated the terms of his house arrest, which forbid him from participating in political activities and speaking to the media. — AP, Lusaka

Burundi deaths rise to 284

Troops were still combing the area around Burundi's Bujumbura airport yesterday as the death toll in a bloody rebel attack on Thursday rose to at least 284.

Army spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Mamert Sinarinzi said that the dead included 180 civilians, 100 rebels and four Burundi army soldiers. An estimated 1,000 Hutu rebels launched the dawn attack near the village of Rukaramu, a few kilometres north of Bujumbura, the most daring assault on the Burundi capital since military ruler Pierre Buyova seized power in an army coup in July 1996.

The attackers appeared to be part of a broader alliance of Burundian and Rwandan Hutu rebel groups, hut most of the dead were former Rwandan army soldiers, Lt-Col Sinar-

Tribal rifts wreck Kenya's chance to throw out Moi

Daniel arap Moi appears to have the achieved the victory he sought in Kenya's elections. But Ed O'Loughlin in Nairobi asks whether this will simply deepen the crisis in the country.

Amid all the sound and fury of this week's elections in Kenya one remarkable story of human 36 per cent in 1992. achievement has gone almost -

On Tuesday-it was an-Makasembo, a candidate for the Kenyan democracy. National Development Party, over the greatest of handicaps: tional Development Party. three weeks before the polls opened on Monday, he died.

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the only strange thing about this contesting the parallel presidential, parliamentary and civic elections - including the ruling Kenyan African National Union -were claiming to be the victims of impersonation, ballot-stuffing, vote-buying and intimidation. All alleged that the electoral commission's gross bungling, which caused many polling stations to open late or not at all on Monday, was part of an anti-demo-

crauc conspiracy against them. The two leading opposition figures, Raila Odinga and fellow presidential candidate Mwai Kibaki, yesterday reject-

back into power, and called for come in at a canter. In fact the a new poll within 21 days.

With counting continuing from 166 of the 210 constituencies showed President Moi comfortably leading his nearest rival, Democratic Party candidate Mr Kibaki, by 1,974,871 votes to 1.633,597. His share of the vote was 39.2 per cent - a surprise increase on his

But even if the elections Mr Makasembo's story shows nounced that Humphrey Ochuo that there are still deep flaws in

Makasembo it was a triumph symbol of Mr Odinga's Na-

the Luo tribe, the second largest

MYSTERY DISEASE KILLS 250

still being tested for Rift Valley fever.

killed 250 people in the flood-stricken north-east.

Ten days after it was first reported, health authorities in Kenya

are still struggling to identify a mysterious epidemic which has

body orifices, symptoms identified in thousands of livestock also

reported to have died in recent days. The Kenyan representa-

tive of the World Health Organisation, Dr Douglas Klaucke, said the authorities now believe the disease could be caused by an-

thrax, a bacterium tested by several countries - including Britain

- for use in germ warfare. But he stressed that the samples were

Symptoms include fever, headaches and haemorrhaging from

NDP took every seat in Migori. Ethnic and regional considyesterday, unofficial figures erations dominate Kenyan polides to the exclusion of virtually everything else. In the 1992 election, for ex-

ample, candidates Kenneth Matiba and Mwai Kibaki, both members of Kenya's largest tribe, the Kikuyu, won 95 per cent of the votes in the Kikuyudominated Central Province, but only 23 per cent in Rift Valwere really free and fair, the late ley, stronghold of President Moi's Kalenjin tribal alliance. Raila Odinga won 75 per cent of the vote in his Luo-domi-Mr Makasemho posthu- nated Avanza province but only had trounced his four rivals to mously topped the poll be- 1 per cent in Central. Early figwin the Uruba ward seat on cause his name appeared on the ures from this year's poll show Migori town council. For Mr ballot paper beside the tractor the same massive regional im-

This year there was some ex-Mr Odinga is a member of citement when Charity Ngilu became the first woman to make Mr Makasembo's victory in Kenya, and like all major a serious bid for the presidency. from the grave was by no means Kenyan parties, his NDP is re- As a member of the small Kamally little more than an ethnic ba tribe it was felt she might win week's elections. By the time cancus. Migori is in the Luo votes from women of all ethpolls closed all the main parties heartland of Nyanza province. nicities and from men sick of the Had the NDP nominated a tribal deadlock. This has not

ed the preliminary results which dead donkey in Mr Makasem- materialised. Early figures put showed Mr Moi would be swept bo's stead it too would have Mrs Ngilu a poor fifth, with most of her votes coming from her native Eastern province.

Her main significance now is as a potential spoiler. To be reelected Mr Moi needs to win 25 per cent of the vote in five of Kenya's eight provinces and Mrs Ngilu's candidacy threatens to deprive him of a substantial block of the Kamba vote in one of the five provinces which he won last time. Unofficial figures suggest that he may reach the target in seven provinces - a result which the opposition is certain to reject as fraudulent.

For the past 19 years Mr. Moi's great skill as a ruler has been to play off the three larges tribes - the Kikuyu. Luo and Luhya - against each other while maintaining the support of the smaller peoples.

Although most members of the larger tribes now detest Mr Moi's government for its corruption and misrule, they still seem unable to unite to get rid of him. In 1992, despite claims of massive Kanu vote-buying and suggestions of serious irregularities. Mr Moi won only 36 per cent of the vote but still

This time around the opposition vote is split amongst 14 presidential candidates and 22 would-be parliamentary parties.

With political tensions running high across the country and all sides condemning the election as flawed and rigged, Kenya's battered reputation as East Africa's richest and most stable country seems destined to suffer a further blow. Mr Makasembo, wherever he is now, may feel he is better off out of it.

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Namibia's bushmen threatened with oppression by black government

The past couple of centuries have not been kind to the Kxoespeaking San, or 'bushmen', of north-eastern Namibia. Ed O'Loughlin found out why their problems have got worse since the country became independent.

The descendants of free-ranging hunter gatherers, Namibia's remaining 4,000 Kxoe now live in sprawling resettlement camps inside the West Caprivi game reserve, the shrivelled heart of their traditional hunt-

No longer able to hunt or wander in the old manner, they have fallen prey to all the predictable 20th-century social scourges unemployment, alcoholism, malnutrition, violent crime and disease, including a rapidly-worsening epidemic of HIV. Yet what preoccupies them most at present is not these modern afflictions, but a new threat from an old enemy.

The powerful chief of a neighbouring Bantu-speaking tribe, which once enslaved the Kxoe, is claiming that they are still his vassals and that the land they currently occupy is his. And the democratically elected government of the South West Africa

wrested independence from apartheid South Africa in 1989, seems to be supporting the chief's feudal claim.

At the centre of the dispute is a small tourist campsite built by the Kxoe on the years, illegally grazing cattle and burning Okavango River's Popa Falls to raise funds for development. Constructed at the beginning of this year with the help of Western donors and local development agencies, the campsite was condemned from the outset by Chief Erwin Mbambo, leader of the neighbouring Mbukushu tribe, on the grounds that his permission had not been

The Kxoe ignored him, saying the Mbukushu chiefs had no jurisdiction east of the Okavango River. But then in May, the government abruptly announced that the camp would have to go: the prison ministry, it said, needed the stretch of scenic riverbank along the east of the falls to expand a neighbouring penal farm.

Since then the Kxoes' campsite has become a cause célèbre for Namibian and environmental and social activists and a rallying point for the divided and demoralised Kxoe people.

They claim that key figures within the government are really acting at the behest of the Mbukushu chief, Erwin Mbambo, a who began arriving there 2,000 years ago.

people's Organisation (Swapo), which former Swapo exile with close ties to senior government leaders. If not, they ask, why is the government ignoring the hundreds of Mbukushu peasants who have settled within the reserve over the past two

off hush for planting Many Kxoe also helieve that elements within Swapo are Irving to punish them for taking the wrong side in the Namibian liberation struggle. Between 1975 and 1989. the South African army used attractive wages and racial propaganda to persuade thousands of "Bushman" soldiers to serve as trackers and reconnaissance troops along the Angolan border.

"They say to us, 'We remember you when you were killing us'." said Kipi George, elected chief of the Caprivi Ksoe. "Every tribal group in Namihia has members who fought against Swapo, but we are the only ones who are being blamed."

For many San, apartheid was not a black and white matter. South Africa's own San were wiped out by two centuries of white genocide - Bushmen were hunted for trophies up until the beginning of this century - but elsewhere in southern Africa many aboriginal San found a more immediate

Rats tested for killer bird flu after eating dumped poultry

has started testing dogs, cats and rats in Hong Kong to find out whether the mysterious hird flu has spread to other animals.

The tests were revealed as the Hong Kong government came under increasing fire for its handling of the poultry cull which destroyed 1.4 million chickens, geese, ducks, pigeons and quail.

The tests on other animals were ordered after it became apparent that the authorities had left large bags of dead chickens in various places where they were seized and eaten by dogs, cats and rats.

Television pictures of dead chickens being carried away by scavenging dogs have added to a mood of public unease about the handling of the slaughter. It was supposed to take 24 hours but ended up lasting four days. Even after it was supposed to

poultry farms waiting for offi- ration or evaluation therefore cials to complete their task.

While the cull was underway, government officials were seen supervising the killing of poultry in the markets wearing full protective clothing, but those actually killing the hirds were doing so with bare hands, surrounded by blood and large numbers of scared hirds.

The aim was to try and cut off the flu at its source. The death toll from the H5N1 virus has now reached 4 out of 15 confirmed and 6 suspected cases.

Yesterday the Executive Council, or cabinet of the Chief Executive, Tung Chee-hwa, met in emergency session to discuss the hird flu crisis. Beforehand one of the councillors, Tam Yiu-chung, publicly criticised the government's handling of the cull. He said decisions over the slaughter might have been

The World Health Organisation be over there were reports of made with undue haste. "Prepawas not sufficient," he said.

After the meeting Mr Tung admitted that there had been 'inadequacies' in the government's actions and said "improvements need to be made". He promised that this would be 'sorred out some time today".

Researchers have been unable to establish how a strain of flu previously only found in poultry is transmitted to humans. A higger concern is whether the virus can be transmitted between humans

Experts from the WHO believe the risks of human to human transmission are minimal because the virus, although potentially lethal once it takes root in victims, has weak powers of transmission. However, the virus may be mutating and



Cuban exile lays down law on US entry

A Cuban baseball star who was given special clearance to enter the United States after escaping to the Bahamas is refusing to take up the offer until his fellow passengers are also allowed into the US.

Orlando Hernandez, whose baseball-star hrother, Livan. found fame and fortune in the US after defecting from Cuba two years ago, was one of eight passengers on a small boat picked up by US coastguards in Bahamas waters this week. Within 36 hours, he, his girlfriend and another baseball player were told they could enter the US. The other five were detained pending repatriation to Cuba.

The case highlights the use of discretion in US asylum policy towards Cubans and the exceptions made for sporting and entertainment figures.

--- Mary Dejevsky

Sonia brings Gandhi magic to India poll

The decision by Sonia Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi's widow, to campaign for the Congress Party has galvanised India's latest general election, writes Peter Popham in Delhi. But the outcome of the voting is almost certain

to be another coalition. The world's higgest democracy will begin voting in its general

election on 16 February, the election commissioners in Delhi announced. So yast is the area that polling in India's 543 constituencies will take place over on 7 March, and counting will begin two days after that. It is less than two years

since Indians last voted to a government, and the result was so since been three prime ministers, the first of whom held power for only 13 days. But the coming election is

shaping up to have at least last one, thanks to Sonia Gandhi's decision last week to campaign on behalf of Congress.

As the only politically active member of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty which has governed India for most of its first 50 vears, her decision immediately changed the complexion of the nationalist BJP, long the "fascist" or "communalist" hogeyman of Indian politics, seemed to be heading for its first real breakthrough.

In 1996 the BJP won 177 seats, more than any other party and 42 more than Congress - but with its high-minded refusal to enter alliances with regional or caste parties, it found itself some 70 seats short of a gued he would pose a serious majority.

In recent months it has jettisoned its claim to purity and entered the same horse-trading as the other parties. As a result it has spread tentacles into the east and south where previously the BJP's message of Hinduism,

Mother India and economic reform meant little.

Then on New Year's Eve the most famous enigma of Indian politics, Rajiv Gandhi's widow Sonia, finally played her hand, and changed everything.

Although she has lived in India for 30 years, she has never played any active part in politics, and the assassinations of her husband and her mother-inlaw, Indira, make her security on the stump a fearful problem. She is, of course, Italian by birth and upbringing. Yet few people doubt her participation will improve Congress's prospects.

"She was never created by God to win elections," said one local analyst. "After 30 years of four separate days, finishing living here her Hindi is still awful. But this is an electorate where every second person is illiterate, where only a fraction of people read newspapers, which has worshipped idols for inconclusive that there have thousands of years and which has been dominated by Congress for decades. Of course she will make a difference."

Much may depend on how many constituencies she is able more human interest than the to visit and how many voters are going to be moved by having seen the living legend. Congress's problem has been that its president, the octogenarian Sitaram Kesri, lacks popular appeal, and the party is essentially leaderless. In a recent opinion poll, Mrs Gandhi was the second choice for prime minister, contest. Until then the Hindu behind the BJP incumbent Atal-Bihari Vajpayee.

Her inexperience makes it unlikely that she would be thrust into such a role. She was yesterday making supportive noises about Dr Manmohan Singh, an economist and a pop-ular finance minister who drove through the reforms of 1991 that transformed the country's economic prospects. A Sikh, it is ar-

challenge to Mr Vajpayee. The one thing almost certain, however, is that there will be another coalition. With more than one-third of voters supporting minority parties, the days of national party dominance seem to be gone for good.

Roman town unearthed

Archaeologists have unearthed the ruins of a Roman town built during Emperor Nero's reign in southern Egypt, an antiquities official said yesterday.

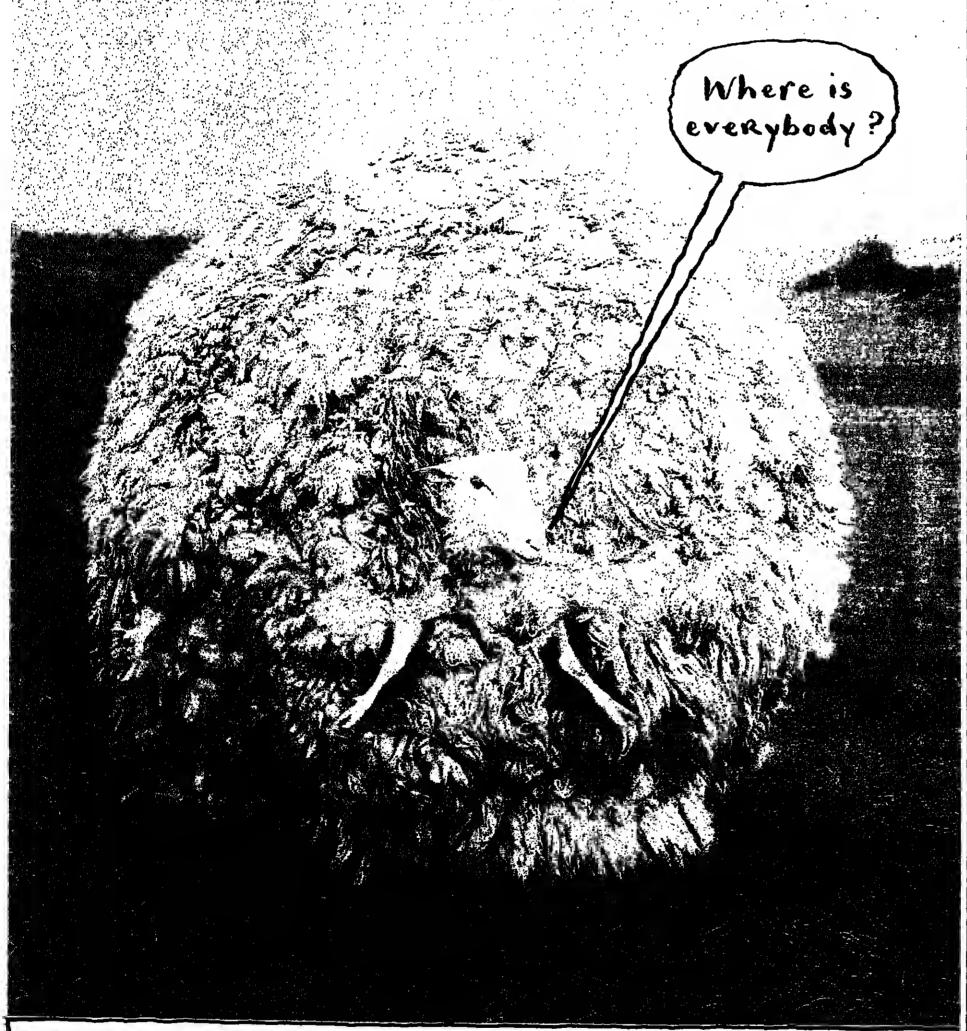
A four-year excavation by Canadian and Egyptian archaeologists has revealed two-storey homes, said Mohammed el-Saghir, the director-general for southern Egyptian antiquities. The town lies in an area called Esment el-Kharab. near the Dakida Oasis, 550km (341 miles) south-west of Cairo, Mr el-Saghir added. The buildings were "in good condition", Mr el-Saghir added. I ne transmigs were despite having been erected in the first century AD.

— AP, Cairo

Emu warning for Germans

An economics professor preparing a court hid 10 delay the launch of Europe's single currency warned Germans yesterday that they had most to lose from monetary union.

"Germany would have to fear the most negative consequences," Wilhelm Hankel, of Frankfurt university, told Saar radio, adding that the chances were high that the new currency, the euro, would be unstable. Mr Hankel and three other academics are preparing to lodge a complaint against Emu with the Federal Constitutional Court, the highest in Germany, in a bid to delay the launch due on 1 January 1999. - Reuters, Bonn



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In pursuit of the perfect moment

Three years ago Jason Rebello, rising star of the new Brit Jazz scene, quit playing to become a Buddhist monk. Now he's back.

Phil Johnson meets the man behind the press release.

It's such a good story, it seems a shame to let mere facts get in the way. A brilliant and bandsome young pianist at the top of his career suddenly packs it all in to go off to n Buddhist monastery in search of the meaning of life. After experiencing the stern discipline of monastic routine, he slowly finds himself once again and realises that his true gift is to make people happy through his music. He therefore bids a sad farewell to his fellow monks and leaves the monastery to play a fabulous comeback concert at the Royal Festival Hall, where amid the cheers and the ovations he meets his old flame backstage. They embrace passionately before he nips out front again for an encore, probably a bit of Rachmaninov. The pianist could be played by Brad Pitt, the monastery could be in Tibet, and Helena Bonham Carter could supply the love interest.

Well, it's nearly true. Jason Rebello is the pianist, and he is young, brilliant and handsome. He is also playing the South Bank tonight, although it's really the tiny Purcell Room and not the larger RFH (but this is British jazz.

The performance is something of a comeback, too, even if it's not in fact the first time be's stroked the ivories mpublic since he quit the cloister. And the monastery? Yep, there is one, but it's in Bradford-on-Avon, just ontside Bath, rather than atop the Himalayas. Jason hasn't exactly left it either, although he's no longer a full-time monk. In fact be was only there for a couple of months, two years ago, but be still lives within sight of the place and goes there regularly to meditate. And finally - sorry, Brad - the Buddhism wasn't an overnight conversion; Rebello had been easing himself into it for years...

"I'm probably not cut out for a meditative life," Rebello says, a little embarrassed at the rather enthusiastic spin the promoter of tonight's coocert has put on the Buddhist angle. "It's a tough. thing to do, to become a monk. Being really honest, leaving the monastery came down to my reluctance to give up my own way of life. I was just too ... frightened to do that, and I didn't have the necessary detachment. You get up at 5.45am and do five bours of meditation a day, as well as lots of work, and coming from the lifestyle I was leading, it was the complete opposite. I intended to go for a few years but in the end it was only a few months because it became 100 difficult."

Rebello's story contains the seeds of vet another potent myth, in which his retreat (such as it was) can be seen as a response to the waning of the brief



...Rebello without a cause? 'When there's no me, there's no problem!' Photograph: Rogan Coles Fediem

British jazz revival of the late Eighties and early Nineties, of which be was first a beneficiary and then a casualty. Following the success of Courtney Pine and Rebello was signed to BMG's Novus label in 1989; his début album, 4 American saxophonist Wavne Shorter. Two further albums followed before his contract, like those of Pine and Shep-

pard, was dissolved when sales did not meet expectations. But this version of events is probably no nearer the trutb than the first. Just before his decision Andy Sheppard for Island Records, to retire, Rebello had achieved his greatest fame so far, when he appeared as a TV presenter for BBC2's pop-Clearer View, was produced by the star culture series Armageous, a role he

looked quite comfortable with. Still only 28 years old, Rebello

coclously early success, as much as anything else, that led to his gradual disillusionment with music.

"I was trying to find a new meaning because I was getting increasingly dissatisfied with the way things were going." he says. "Sometimes, when your dreams are fulfilled early, you feel. Is that all there is? You work hard and get success, which is what you thinks that it may have been his pre- hoped for, but your idea of what it will

be like is much more pleasant than it actually is, and as a consequence you feel let down. You think, 'Yes, if I'm successful, I'll be really bappy and secure', but it doesn't really work like

The interest in Buddbism bad been growing steadily ever since his professional career took off after be left the Guildhall School of Music in London in 1986, "I think what attracted me is that it's very logical -Buddhism can appeal to Westerners because they have this logical bent. You're not asked to believe things blindly; you're testing them out, almost like you're a scientist - you're trying to find out what is real."

For a jazz musician, the attraction of a philosophy that prizes the perfect moment above all else is very powerful, and many instrumentalists have compared the act of improvising to a kind of enlightened state. Sonny Rollins has talked about how he knows be is playing at his best if, in the midst of a solo, he loses himself in the music to the point where the saxophone seems to be playing him rather than the other way round, "In a sense, it's the self that impedes everything you do," Rebello says. "You're constantly trying to give up the idea that you're calling the shots. When you're playing, the idea of self is what makes it go wrong. When there's no me, there's no problem!"

Rebello's own style as a pianist doesn't, at least on the surface, suggest the intervention of any mystical force - unlike, say, the keyboard meditations of Keith Jarrett, a Gurdjieff man, or Bheki Mseleku, who used to accompany Krishna devotees at a shrine in Balham. By contrast, Rebello is one of the most worldly-sounding of players, elegant and epigrammatic in the manner of Errol Garner or the great Art Tatum, and with an ear alert to the rhythms of funk and soul.

Rebello's pursuit of the perfect moment of improvisation is also being paralleled by a renewed interest in composition, and what could be the beginnings of a classical career. On Friday, a concert in the Park Lane Group's annual "Young Artists New Year Series" (also, as it happens, at the SBC's Purcell Room) features an arrangement Rebello has made for two pianos. "The piece is written so that it should sound like two jazz pianists improvising, almost like taping them and then writing it out," he says. Tonight's jazz concert features both a solo set, and a trio with bassist Wayne Batchelor and drummer Darren Beckett, but Rebello denies the press release's assertion that he will be playing Juzz Meditation, described as "a piece he wrote in his head when meditating in the monastery". "No." he laughs. "I'm just playing some tunes," It looks as if Rachmaninov, Brad Pitt and Tibet will have to wait a little longer.

Spnt tonight, Purcell Room, SBC, London SE1 (0171-960 4242)



Ice is nice - but the skate is great

Torvill and Dean Wembley Arena

There were cushions for rent at Wembley Arena on Tuesday for the London premiere of Torvill and Dean's Ice Adventures, but everyone who feh the need bad come with their own - plus a nice warm rug for their knees. No disrespect to the audience, but it would be a great place to shift a few Saga holiday brochures. The bulk of the capacity crowd seemed to be long-established fans and their eager applause certainly warmed things up.

lce Adventures is a series of unconnected episodes set in a railway station, a tropical fisb tank, a winter sports competition and a stylish New Year's Eve party. These changes of scene are contrived via a superh lighting design, by Durbam Marenghi, which projects various motifs - lug- artists rather than acrobats. gage labels, national flags, parquel blocks - on to the Arena floor. (Marenghi's wildly cosmopolitan CV includes (be Hong Kong hand-

over ceremony.) The main scenes are intercut with tedious bits of clowning from two Arctic bunters jacket, partners with apparent and a yeti-like object in fun fur. I doo't suppose anyone ever lost money by underestimating the tastes of Ice adore with more densely tex-Spectacular fans, but the constant force-feeding of comic commonplace lyrics of the interludes suggests that some- accompanying ballads with one (presumably Mr Bean co- the bittersweet world-weariwriter Rohin Driscoll, who ness you see in a shrug of Sinacollaborated on lee Advent- tra's shoulder. Pair skating ures) has little faith in the audience's attention span. This refusal to let the ice

dance stand alone stems from a problem encountered by any sporong skater who retires to a life of ice shows: Olympic routines are exhausting. Torvill and Dean are seldom off the ice for long, but their need for breaks has spun this

show out to a bum-numbing two-and-a-half hours.

Of the interminable frozen fillings, the most memorable were Richard Swenning, and the Canadian couple Christine and Dion Beleznay - who seem to specialise in the stunt work often frowned upon in amateur competition. Their party tricks include the "headbanger" - whereby the man swings his partner round by the ankles so that her nose shaves the ice - and a remarkable lift in which be raises her horizontal body over his bead with one hand while spinning at top speed. Of all the guest stars, the Beleznays seemed to have the most chemistry between them.

Torvill and Dean's way of inhabiting the music and their total concentration on each other rather than the spotlight have always marked them as Here they occupy a feature spot in each section, but pace themselves carefully for the party finale, "Take Five" is danced with the painstaking insouciance that characterises their work. Dean, louche and raffish in a white dinner effortlessness. The routine seamlessly incorporates the fancy stuff that audiences so tured moments that colour the can't be improvised: the trick is to make it look that way.

To Sun, Wembley Arena (0181-900 1234); 13-17 Jan Manchester Nyrex Arena (0161-930 80001; 20-24 Jun Newcastle Arena (0191-401 8000); 27-31 Jan Sheffield Arena (0114 256 5656)

Louise Levene

Seasonal redemption via the satsuma bowl

TELEVISION



REVIEWED BY THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

The award for the least emollient moments of the last few days goes to the opening scenes of Mothertime (Sunday, BBC2) a shrewdly acidic take on family life that began with an alcoholic mother belting her teenage daughter and emptying

so that she could use it to catch her vomit.

This genuinely painful scene - in which childhood hopes for what Christmas might deliver bumped hard against adult failings - made you brace yourself for something remedial, something sour and harsh, as an emetic for the sugar overdose which Christmas television conventionally delivers. What followed, though, was far more hopeful in tone, a tale of rescue and redemption.

Vanessa, the oldest child of four, decides to take matters in band after ber mother collapses in a sozzled beap. With Daddy staying at his girifriend's flat and the nanny off to Denmark for the holidays, the way custody; so the children lock ending - mother restored to

the satsuma bowl over the floor their mother in the basement sauna and put her on a diet of compulsory cold turkey.

Despite that opening, Mothertime couldn't exactly be described as gritty in its realism the sauna included the somewhat unusual design feature of a very large letterbox, to get round the problem of how the children feed their prisoner, and the plot was aided by Vanessa's handy ability to do a perfect imitation of ber mother's voice, good enough to fool her exbusband and other curious grown-ups.

But even though it poured sawdust into the gearbox to mask unsettling rattles, Mothertime conveyed some real truths - about childhood disillusionment and parental failis clear for a spot of protective ure. The mitigated happy

loving sobriety but father dispossessed of his daughter's unquestioning adoration - left you feeling hopeful but not entirely convinced.

Manhew Jacobs's deft direction of his own adaptation of Gillian White's novel (he parficularly enjoyed the long bout of delirium tremens) was also assisted by an excellent performance from Kate Maberley as Vanessa, determined and resentful and vulnerable by turns.

One of the other one-off dramas shown over the Christmas week also ended with a rising inflection that seemed to owe more to seasonal goodwill than to cold-eyed realism. Guy Jenkin's Mr White Goes to Westminster (Tuesday, Channel 4) concluded with his hero vowing to battle on against corruption, cynicism and circulation-

boosting lies. The plot and characters for Jenkin's satire had been supplied by life, but only as far as the first ad break - after that he had to work out what to do with his Martin Bell figure - an ex-war correspondent who stands as an independent against a sleazestained Titry candidate.

His solution was a good ballot for Private Members' Bills and attempting to push through legislation which would compel newspapers to offer redress if they published lies about ordinary members of the public. What followed was partly a tutorial on how a sharpedged Bill can be polished to inmachine, partly an exploration of how private honour and because it was Christmas.

hemselves into an unloosable knot. (White's bill is secretly supported by his former lover. an ambitious Labour backbencher - he can't reveal the source of his funding to the rapacious hacks without dishing her career.)

public probity might easily twist

Since he had constructed this tangle with some care, it was one, with the MP winning the a bit surprising that Jenkin should cut it apart so casually, with all the principal characters suddenly displaying a spotless and self-sacrificing nobility of charicter. Perhaps he wanted a bit of Capra optimism to finish with - but you couldn't help feeling that he was going against torm as he did so - that the unnocuous smoothness by its ruly contempt that supplied passage through the party same of the best jokes bere bad been temporarily silenced just

THE INDEPENDENT

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RADIO



REVIEWED BY ROBERT HANKS

It has been a long year - 1997, that is; 1998 has so far been a comparatively short one, though that situation seems set to change over the coming months -and the world of radio has had amazements, from James psychology, or the undertakerits full quota of thrills and Boyle's announcement that Rapoet Thomas Lynch. Mean-

dio 4 programmes would all be abolished and replaced by something similar, only better (an idea adapted by the Labour Party, with startling success, for its election manifesto), to Chris Evans's sudden purchase of Virgin Radio and subsequent appointment of his horse as director of programmes.

What with all the walk-outs, buy-outs, rows, deals, and Mark Radcliffe bobbing up and down the Radio 1 schedules, it's been bard to pay attention to the programmes themselves.

And the effort hasn't always been repaid. On Radio 4, in particular, there has been a dearth of interesting new features, and a dispiriting glut of rehashed old features, generally featuring Barbie dolls, Darwinian insights into human

while, the regular magazine programmes - Woman's Hour. The Afternoon Shift, Kaleidoscope - bave seemed irradiated with tedium: you want to Lovesongs. decontaminate yourself after listening.

Hence the surprisingly unindignant response to Mr Boyle's slash-and-burn scheduling philosophy.

Elsewhere at the BBC. though, things have been looking more obserful. During the hrief interlude when Mark and Lard were occupying the breakfast slot - admittedly not the best showcase for their talents - Radio 1 had the most creative and satisfying line-up it's ever seen. Then again, Zoë Ball.

creasingly bold and challenging.

somewhere up its own backside. has pulled itself out of that hole with aplomb. The facile logic behind Radio 2 is Radio 2, and Radio 5's existence was shown there's nothing you or I can do up by Princess Diana's death: to stop it, but the evening what's the point of having 24schedules bave become in-

with some really quite clever channel? Still, it has given a noisy version of Alistair and witty programmes pupping up in odd corners. Then voice to a blokey, intelligent sort again. Steve Wright's Sunday of person who hasn't had one HMS Ubsses. before. Few of the independent Radio 3's musical presentstations offer such a sharply deation, still chasing after that fined alternative to the other ignis fatuus "accessibility", has BBC networks - the notable got lost in the decaying swamp and oddly lovable exception beof inane cheerfulness. But ing Talk Radio UK, whose persistent advocacy of many brands of hypiness has at times

speech output has been outstanding: the Sunday afternoon feature and the nightly post-concert strand have scored particularly sober edition of repeatedly, while Night Wares. Panorama. a programme that once suffered In the end, though, the raterrible reception problems dio highlights of 1997 were all BBC programmes, and mostly due to being transmitted from

broadcast on Radio 4. The exception was Blue Jana, Chris and heartless comedy on Radio t. It had something of the same remorselessness, the same refusal to let the listener off the hour rolling news when you're hook, that marked out my been a wasted year.

M:icLean's existential navy lark Documentary needs to be kinder than this. The best fac-

going to blank out every other favourite drama, Bill Bryden's

tual series was Noah Richler's In Paradise, a rich, eccentric exploration of how garden design and eschatology overlap in a variety of cultures, which showed an exceptional eagermade The X Files look like a ness to understand other points of view.

And the best single documentary was Matt Thompson's Touching the Elephant, in which four blind people were invited to visit the zoo and discover what an elephant felt like; an Morris's seething mix of music acute investigation of how we perceive things, it was, inexplicably, deeply moving, If 1998 comes up with another pro-



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Not so much straws as haystacks in the wind

The holiday season is traditionally the time of whodunnits. Normally they come in the form of an Agatha Christie movie on the telly, but this year the country has indulged itself in a reallife political mystery. **Our Legal Affairs** Correspondent looks at the chain of media clues that pointed to the identity of that Cabinet minister.

The British love a good mystery. Yesterday the denouement of the thriller "Who was the Cabinet inmister whose son (allegedly) sold drugs to a reporter?" finally arrived, though not before the country's

BY. **MICHAEL** STREETER

ramshackle media laws ooce more began to look farcical. A week after the story first broke, it seemed that the entire planet except for the people who voted in the Labour government last May knew the solution to the riddle.

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for oewspaper readers to solve the puzzle. Some clues have been cunningly disguised, designed only for the cognoscenti lo pick up on, for those with already half a ciue as to the is identity. In others, the has half expected 10 find a gi-Tack Straw with the caption "it's. him, folks!".

One of the broadest hints came in the Mirror itself, the newspaper which broke the story on Christmas Eve, and which was condemned by some parts of the chattering classes simply for doing its job of investigative journalism. Aggrieved that Dawn Alford, one of its two reporters who were present in the pub with Master Staw, had been arrested in connection with possession, it led its front page on Tuesday with the headline "Is it fair, Mr

The reason for such a telltale - but understandable heading was that the paper was writing to the Home Secretary "as head of law and order", asking him to investigate the matter. Just in case no one got the message, two photographs of the minister were also included.

Never ooted for its subtlety, the Sun (smarting over its rival's scoop) ran a column on Tuesday by William Langley in which he revealed that the minister concerned had played a central role in the Governmeot's policies against drugs and on parental responsibility. This was as clear a reference to the Home Secretary's policies as you could get. But just to be sure, Mr Langley ended his article by suggesting that instead of setting an example, by appearing to hide behind the anonymity of the law, the minister concerned was open to charges of an "I"m all right, Jack" attitude.

One of the clearest signs possible came from a front page story in the Independent On Sunday last weekend, which in the middle of discussing the issue suddenly declared that the Home Secretary had turned down a "formal approach" for an interview by the newspaper. With no other context, the reference could have no other meaning than revealing the inister's ideotity.

Meanwhile, other newspapers continued to pepper reports of the affair with mentions and photographs of Jack Straw (qua Home Secretary) and law-and-order policy, and even some television broadcasts

appeared to be playing the spoi-the-clue game. Io ooe news broadcast on New Year's Day, Sky TV used footage of the Cahinet which lingered tellingly on Mr Straw.

But perhaps the cheekiest clue came from yesterday's London Evening Standard, in wbose Diary there was a "good news" story of how Mr Straw's teenage son William has succeeded in winning a place to read Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Oxford University. An "insider" was quoted as saying he will have no problems with his A-levels "providing nothing else distracts him".

It ended: "If only all politicians' children could set such a shining academic example."

All this is good fun oo one level, of course, except that by the time the Standard was reduced to that ploy, all the world knew, or could know, of the minister's identity except for the majority of people in England

For some observers, there is something rather dismal about the British media being reduced to such sad suhterfuges to tell their readers of something the rest of the world has known about for days.

Scottish oewspapers, which vesterday oamed Mr Straw, just completed the circle of publications which took up camp around the legal fortress of England. Irish newspapers and broadcasters had got in oo the act, as had France-Soir, a French newspaper available in Yet there have been hints this country, and assorted press enough over those seven days and media from all around the globe. Indeed, by yesterday afternoon, Associated Press news service was running the namein this country.

There was however, a class of Britons who were in oo the hints have been so blatant ooe cal establishments who ioformed themselves within hours ant arrow over a photograph of of the Mirror's initial publication. This privileged information was quickly spread among families and friends, with the words "It's Jack Straw" replacing the usual "Happy Christmas" greetiogs wheo journalists visited their relatives oo 25 December.

> Even some Metropolitan Police officers - the force which arrested William Straw - were phoning their media contacts to discover the inside track, while one journalist revealed the mystery man's name to fellow diners at a packed London restaurant as midnight chimed on New Year's Eve.

There was one more group of people in the know within days of the story breaking; Britain's growing band of Internet users. If ever there was a good example of how the Net can be used to undermine media controls, this was it - but usually those people who extol this virtue are referring to Third World dictatorships, not to a country which is poised to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into

its domestic law. The Net discussion sites were buzzing as early as Christmas Eve, speculating furiously over the mystery minister. By Christmas Day enterprising netties had published full lists of male members of the Cabinet who had childreo, and by a process of elimination Jack Straw, who lived in the right area and has a teenage son, was singled out. The clincher for some was the obscure - and unconfirmed piece of information that Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's press secretary, had been spotted at a bus stop outside Mr Straw's south London house the night before the story broke oo Christmas Eve.

Bul while the oetties' sleuthing is to be applauded. they still represent a minority -6 million users - of the population, leaving the great majority of ordinary voters who do not have media and political contacts in the dark.

And the Cabinet minister's name did and does matter. Mr Straw is, after all, the Home Secretary who has strongly opposed the legalisation of central importance of pareotal



The truth is in there: Heavy hints, allusive paragraphs and oh-so-clever cartoons - the media did all they legally could to give away Jack Straw's identity Photomontage: Julian Saul

responsibility in controlling the behaviour of young people. This culminated in many of the provisions of his recently published Crime and Disorder Bill, including those calling for parenting lessons, and which will probably become law later this

Since the episode began, Mr Straw, an astute and honest politician, has explicitly recognised the likely public interest in the affair and before taking William to Kennington

police station to talk to officers he prepared a press statement to explain his position. It was only on later legal advice that he did not go public. Since then he has stressed, first through "sources" and then directly. that he wanted to go public, but was constrained by the law.

In hindsight, Mr Straw may regret this decision to hold fire, which led to the saga which developed over the following days - a process described by Sir Brian Mawhinney

cannabis while highlighting the Helping with investigations: Reporter Dawn Alford was arrested in connection with the possession of cannabis

(and were the public utterances of the Shadow home secretary another clue?) as a "slow torture" for the minister's family.

The decision of the Sun last Tuesday to publish the name was greeted with an injunction obtained by the Attorney General, John Morris QC, under the laws of contempt (not under the 1933 Children and Young Persons Act as manythink). Although this was an honourable attempt by the Attorney General to protect a young person's identity, it both dismayed some lawyers and journalists who claim the law of contempt was not intended to cover this specific area, and gave the appearance of a Government cover-up. The same applied to the decision by police - on advice from the Crown Prosecution Service – to arrest

Given that early last year, under the last Government, the Home Office had said they were considering a change in the law to clear up this grey area where a juvenile is arrested but is not yet in court proceedings, some believe it may have been better had Mr Straw's department announced a review of the law and then allowed publication of the identity.

Of course there are good reasons to protect juveniles facing criminal allegations. As Paul Cavadino, principal officer of the National Association for the Care and Rehabilitation of Offenders says, the anonymily rule is there to protect juvenile desendants "not their parents from embarrassment". He adds: "Media publicity can seriously hinder the rehabilitation of offenders." The naming of Master Straw will undoubtedly colour his reception at Oxford University,

not aware of his "background" would probably have been in the minority.

Yet it is a simple fact that in cases of teenagers accused of similar offences as William Straw, and named by the media, Government law officers have not stepped in and sought protective injunctions. Many would argue that a Cabinet minister's son should not have more protection than "ordinary" children. This suggests the best course now is clarification of the law. In fact the Government has

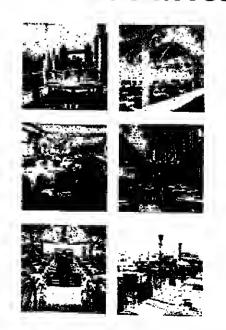
already considered this, albeit in a broader context. The White Paper on Youth Justice, published by Jack Straw last year. called for "more openness" in youth court proceedings. It stated: "Justice is best served in an open court where the criminal process can be scrutinised and the offender cannot hide behind a cloak of anonymity."

In any case, where a senior Government minister's son is involved in allegations which touch directly on his father's policy, common sense surely dictates that the public have a right to know of the fact, a reality that the law should allow.

Otherwise the law, as it has done in the last week, descends into that other great British institution - a farce. It may be a hit rich for a French newspaper, as France-Soir did, to lecture the British establishment on "typical hypocrisy" for stopping publication of the identity, given France's stringent privacy laws. However, few observers here have found the last few days' events satisfactory, be it from the point of view of William, his pareots, or British democracy and jourprovided some rare entertainthough fellow undergraduates ment over a quiet Christmas.

THE INDEPENDENT INDEPENDENT

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Starts this weekend in the Independent on Sunday and continues throughout February in The Independent

Ist token in The Independent on Sunday on January 4th



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Some readers will detect a heavy dose of media self-interest in the saga of wbetber or not Jack Straw would be named as the man whose son supplied cannahis to a Mirror reporter hefore Christmas. And some readers are, of course, right. It was a cracking story, and in the news business that countermands most other considerations.

Today we, like other papers, are able to tell the full story. It is no longer the case, as it had been throughout the Christmas holiday season, that the political and journalistic establishment knew the identity of the minister but the rest of Britain didn't. A week ago, we said that the story told us nothing essential or new about the drugs dehate. A week on, we haven't changed our minds. But in the meantime, we bave all been caught up in days of collective twisted-knickerism about power. secrecy, hypocrisy, the press, the Attorney-General, politicians generally, and "the right to know". It is well worth a few minutes disentangling.

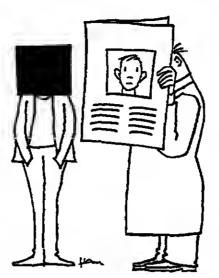
First, is the law an ass generally to prevent newspapers publishing the identities of voungsters in court cases? No. Despite the numbers of people in their mid-teens who commit unpleasant and sometimes violent crimes that would disgrace any adult, the law is wise. Helping people to

grow up, and grow away from crime, means avoiding hranding them early in their lives.

Second, though, is the law excessively inflexible in this regard? Probably, it is. Like it or not, where the 17-year-old involved is the son of the Home Secretary. at a time when the Home Secretary is trying to remoralise the country's attitude to youth and drugs, that person is in a different category from any other teenager. Given that his offence was a common one, and doesn't affect the wider issues, that is his bad luck. But the story was just too interesting, too piquant, to stay for long at the level of north London dinner-party gossip. The politicians were ill-advised to try to keep the lid on it. Given that Mr Straw wanted to speak out, the Attorney General, in particular, has made a fool of himself in effectively gagging his colleague.

Yesterday, he was forced to change direction. Why? Because in the modern world, if a secret is sufficiently interesting, it simply cannot be kept from one group of people, in this case those living in England and Wales.

Scotland has her own legal system. Yesterday, facing no legal threat themselves, three Scottisb papers published Mr Straw's name. The Republics of Ireland and France have papers that are quite widely read in England. They did the same.



Millions of people cross to and from Britain all the time, carrying information as well as wine and suntan oil. And for anyone with a thousand pounds' worth or so of computer kit in the back bedroom, all the facts were anyway available on the Internet.

We live in a highly porous world.

where news and gossip slosbes around, blithely ignoring traditional jurisdictions: whether it be satellite broadcasting, the Net or cheap flights to Paris, technology trumps censorship, time after time after time. New Labour, as people still freshly in power and therefore presumably still reasonably in touch with realities, ought

to have realised that from the start. So it follows, then, that all government should stop trying to censor anything, and that we should know everything about everyone? Some editors who should know better have been quick to say that the Straw saga demonstrates the impossibility of a privacy law ever working. That, too, shows a lack of proportion. This was a highly unusual case, with a strong polit-

A privacy law which protected ordinary citizens from prving into their private sexual lives, for instance, would not be affected by the availability of foreign newspapers in London, or by the Internet. Similarly, the classification and occasional censorship of films can he defended even when "everybody knows" you can get the stuff in Belgium or Sobo. Everybody knows, hut everyhody doesn't go. Most people can't be bothered. Meanwhile, protecting young minds from images of extreme and sadistic violence remains a valid thing for governments to

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GURREN DER ING

What, finally, about the position of Mr. Straw bimself? It is undeniably emb

rassing. He will be laughed at by signe, it is underlaughed at by signe, it is next time he speaks about drugs or about young people generally. The profession sneerers will find some easy copy in the weeks ahead. It would have been much easier for him had his name been published. immediately, and the week of inmiendo. nudge-nudging and press pontification been avoided. But we don't believe there is a single fair-minded person who thinks worse of him for what happened. It is the kind of thing that can happen, and in many cases has happened, to families up and down the country. He dealt with it briskly and is at last talking about it openly. How can he be less qualified to do his job now he is revealed as a normal member of an ordinary family, than he was before?

The only lesson for the whole Government to remember is that you can't .: keep a good story down. For a few days, as we digested smears and leaks from the police, injunctions from the Attorney General and the arrest of the reporter concerned, and noted a rising bubble of mockcry from all sides, they looked like a flat-footed, out of touch Tories at their worst. We only hope they noticed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Paying for the Pill

Sir: It would be an astonishing irony indeed if free contraception, which has survived 18 years of Conservative government, were now to fall victim to a New Labour government with more than one hundred women MPs ("Prescription charge plan for Pill", 31 December).

Not only an irony but also innumerate nonsense if the intention, as stated, is to save public money. Someone should whisper in Tony Blair's ear that the alternative to spending some £40 a year on contraception will be, in many cases, to spend around £350 once or twice a year on NHS abortion, according to figures given in the House of Commons by Tessa Jowell on 12 November, or £1,398 on child- the meal contained enough hirth in the NHS, as reported by drug to dope the entire pack in the House on 30 October. These figures take account only of average immediate NHS costs, and not of social support in the future in helping parents to cope with unwanted children. These costs are probably incalculable. MADELEINE SIMMS

London NW11

Rebel MEPs

Sir: I'm afraid my erstwhile colleagues Hugh Kerr and Ken Coates are being a little economical with the truth ("Rehel MEPs accuse Lahour machine of dirty tricks", 2 January). There is no necessity for an annual re-affirmation of political group membership. Myself and my colleagues have not had to inform the President of the European Parliament that we intend to continue as members of the Socialist Group in 1998. It is taken as automatic.

However, the administrative rules of the parliament provide financial if not political motives for such a declaration of change of political affiliation. Political group finances will be calculated on the basis of group membership as of 5 January 1998. It seems that the two rebels want to have their cake and car it. They would like to be expelled from the Labour Party, but not at the cost of losing to the Socialist Group the dowry they can offer the Greens for membership if they sign up before 5 January.

The rules of the parliament are crystal clear; you cannot belong to two groups simultaneously. It will not be the first time, or the last, that financial considcrations will have influenced political principle. If the two MEPs have signed up to join the Greens, they have inevitably left the Labour Party. In consequence, all that needs to be done is note their departure. GLYN FORD MEP (Greater Manchester East,

Brussels

The writer is Socialist Group Spokesman on the European Parliament's Rules Comminee

Hunt sabotage

Sir: Julie Roxhurgh claims tletter, 29 December) that hunt sahoteurs would never harm an animal. This is not

true. One only has to watch the Boxing Day footage of the Essex and Farmers' Union hunt to see a saboteur delihcrately terrifying horses by threatening to hit them with a placard. I myself have seen a horse seized by the bridle in such a painful way that it reared up and fell on its rider. This is to say nothing of the many foxes I have seen killed as a direct result of hunt saboteurs running in to block their only avenue of escape and turning them back into the path of the hounds.

As for the Tredegar hounds (report, 27 December), I agree with Mrs Roxburgh so far as to believe that whoever fed them the poisoned meal did not intend to kill them. I would guess it incapable of hunting on Boxing Day hut, in the way of all dogs, the first hounds to find the food bolted the lot and received a lethal overdose.

malice, hut stupidity and ignorance that killed them. Anyone who has watched hunt sahoteurs in action will not be surprised.

SARAH GODLEY Dorking, Surrey

Anti-anti-anti-smoking

Sir: Virginia Ironside has hecome as hig an anti-antismoking bore as any of the antismoking bores whom she rightly castigates (Dilemmas, 1 distress, January). Bores are, by definition, tedious, but Ms Ironside is dangerous also, hecause she succeeds in giving the impression that smoking really does not matter - or is even to be encouraged.

But it does matter. Your article "Fall in cancer deaths Darwin College, Cambridge overshadowed by rise in number of cases" (31 December) says "The sharp fall in lung cancer deaths among men reflects the fall in smoking that hegan over 20 years ago" and evidence just keeps on coming: this very 27 December). Do I detect week the British Medical Jour- a whiff of sociological cybernal reports an authoritative new study, "Passive Smoking. The Health Impaci", which indicates that passive smoking. among other unpleasant things. increases the risk of lung cancer, and as a result, leads to the deaths of an estimated 2,000 non-smokers each year" with-

On New Year's Day, of all days, it seems a hit unfair for Virginia Ironside to undermine anyone's resolve to give up smoking. God knows it's hard enough without that: and it is distressing to learn that to the costs of smoking must now be added those of candles, matches and cans of deodorant spray to render our living rooms wholesome again. Especially as they don't work.

DAVID GIRLING Newcastle upon Time

Sir: Virginia Ironside does not Post letters to Letters to the Editor know her history. It was not and include a daytime telephone number. Hitler who first introduced Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk anti-smoking into modern (i.e. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. post-Reformation) society hut James I. whose A Counter Blast



In other words it was not Animal rescue organisations are full of healthy cats in need of a home

Cats at Christmas

Sir: The kitten bought by Rupresent for his young son ("On the unseasonal death of a pel". 24 December) had been pur-Cornwell was told by the shopkeeper that it was seven weeks old. Within days the kitten had died, much to his family's

to Tobacco was published as ear-

ly as 1604. So a thinking person's

aversion to this foul habit is not

particularly new.

manure?

computers.

ure in it?

GEORGE GÖMÖRI

Nerd or profiteer?

Sir: What a carry-on up the cy-

ber path ("How the nerds are

leading us up the cyber path",

Given that Bill Gates's

lifestyle is unlike yours and

mine, we can ask if that goes

with heing a very rich man, or

with being the boss of a vast cor-

poration or with playing with

experiment which proved that

hrilliant minds are ineffective in

ordinary life? How did they de-

fine the sample of brilliant peo-

ple? Did all the selected people

meekly participate and fad at

the ordinary tasks? How do you

define an ordinary task in the

real world, and success or fail-

tion seems to me to be: "Why

are we hostile to hright people?"

The more interesting ques-

Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

imals in their care over the pert Cornwell as a Christmas Christmas period hut sadly pet shop. some pet shops take advantage of the seasonal rise in demand. Kittens from net shops have ofchased from a pet shop and Mr ten been taken from their mothers when they are far too young and are unable to feed proper- Protection League which nev- M J McCAWLEY ly. It would not surprise me if this particular kitten was in has been properly weaned from The Cuts Protection League

I would dispute your reasons

for computers being difficult to

use. Gratuitous is nothing to do

with it. The reasons are profit,

profit and profit. Once upon a

time I was employed in selling

a computer program which

came with a manual. To reduce

costs the manual was never

produced. The hoss's response

to my protest was that the cus-

tomers' money would be in the

Here's the number

in claiming that all railway sta-

tions are no longer listed in the

tale of the missing railway sta-

for Shropshire, Hereford and

Mid-Wales will reveal the main-

line railway station contact tele-

phone numbers for Gobowen

(01691 679659), Ledbury, Lud-

low and Newtown Powys. These

stations, together with those at

tions", 31 December).

FRANCES BELL

Penrith. Cumbria

Has there actually been an Sir: Charles Arthur is incorrect

We hurnt witches, not realising Pembrey and Burry Port,

that we were depriving the pop- Clitheroe and Saxmundham,

No reputable rescue organ- If it was the runt of the litter it at the very earliest. Animal isations re-home any of the an-should have been given closer rescue organisations are full to attention before it reached the

ganisation such as the Cats or even two kittens. er re-homes a kitten hefore it Chief Executive fact younger than seven weeks. its mother, at eight weeks old. Horsham, West Susser.

by travel agents who specialise

in national and international rail

enquiry service.

Oswestry, Shropshire

the hrim with healthy cats and kittens desperately needing Fluffy's story is, unfortu- good homes. Perhaps now nate, quite common. It might would be the right time for Mr have been avoided had Mr Cornwell's family to approach Cornwell gone to a rescue or- one of them ahout homing one

Photograph John Lawrence

travel and whose staff spare no effort to apply the highest standards of customer care, including an efficient local train

DAVID J LLOYD Manager Severn-Dee Travel Teignmouth, Devon Gobowen Railway Station

bank before they found out, and A modest proposal to remember that negative attitudes don't lead to promotion. Sir: It is clear that the Gov-

ulation of genes for hright and have booking offices provided

erament does not consider be called "work". The Goverament might therefore prefer that all women in the UK should stop rearing children so that they could, instead, engage in "real work". In contrast to telephone directory ("Mystery the action suggested in another context by Lysistrata, this would hardly constitute strike A glance at the Yellow Pages action, and might even be applauded by the many men who have no desire to contribute to the hringing up of their own

offspring. Eventually, an ageing population without young people to support it could be taken over by such memhers of the EU as are willing to pay and respect women for the community service of producing the next generation.

This would be a long-terro lone parents, but perhaps Mr better than this. Blair would like to accelerate MARK REARDON the process by sending all ex- Leeds

isting young children ahroad, as an acceptable beef substitute. The mothers would not then require expensive childcare provision and could concentrate all their energies on making money instead of making the future population of these islands. DOREEN TAMPION

Supermarket strike

Sir. Your series of reports on supermarkets (from 29 December) is typically consumerist in focus. Try another angle. The large suthat the rearing of children can permarkets employ large workforces, most of which are organised in trade unions. Their power, should they decide to use it, is considerable. They could. in fact, balt much of consumerist society at a stroke. Supermarket workers, the new miners? KEITH FLETT London N17

Out of joint

Sir. I can understand why an article about cannabis ("They're so out of it they can't face reality. 2 January) is often accompanied by a picture of a joint and a small pile of weed - presumably so that Cabinet Ministers know what they're talking about. But why are the pictured spliffs always so badly rolled? Surely even a Cabisolution to the problem of idle net Minister's son could do

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

A lot of readers have written landscapes in watercolours. over the Christmas break to Bill Gates: to try a pencil, express delight at the return of the one-section newspaper. the usual two-section weekly paper, and the multi-section Saturday paper.

Well, here comes a confession: I too like single-section papers. If we had Hertfordshire). I don't supdifferent printing presses (four-tower, in the jargon, not three-tower) and could expand the main broadsheet paper beyond 32 pages, then I would live to return to the Surrounded by a grey ocean purity of the single-section of newsprint over Christmas weekday paper. But we are and New Year, it becomes inlimited in size and simply cannot. throughout the year, business is badly disorganised. cram in everything that needs Holidays are the time most to be in a 32-page broadsheet ... as well as printing the advertising we need to stay in there is generally a severe husiness. (Those readers who rather sweetly suggest dropping the adverts should be time to enjoy them. What we prepared to pay £1 or more need to do, clearly, is to for their daily paper as a re- arrange a better match besult.) Saturday papers are tween supply and the derather different. They are mands of news addicts. This hecoming more like Sunday ones and our research suggests that, while a minority want smaller papers, most people expect a multi-section August and at Easter. After weekend read.

Staring into the mirror pudding-faced, hungover. pouchy-eyed and smeared with the fatty residues of self-indulgence - I can as aren't last to find out. To usual at this time of year think of no Resolution which I have the faintest intention of keeping. So here are a few friendly suggestions for oth- of editors would meet before ers. Tony Blair: to maintain a every boliday hreak to decide serious and unsmiling image at all times. The New Labour cheer up readers. It seemed, Government generally: to pick a fight with someone rich and powerful. Rupert Murdoch: to publicly apologise for being such a global hastard and retire to a monastery to contemplate his many sins. anyway. Damien Hirst: to hold an exhibition of graceful little

Gordon Brown: to save Britain's free-admission galwhich we have been obliged leries and museums. Oasis: to. to produce due to the lack of retire. The Teletubbies: to beholiday advertising. This tal- bave disgracefully at musiclies with a constant drip of let- awards ceremonies, do a ters during the rest of the year sponsorship deal with a cigfrom people protesting about arette manufacturer, storm out of a Newsnight interview, and then ... retire (to spend their ill-gotten gains on pink custard and ecstasy in a Hacienda-style mansion in pose any of the above will follow this well-meant advice. But it would cheer up 1998 if they did.

> people can spend maximum time reading papers; but shortage of strong news stories just when people have could be done by sloring particularly spicy news stories and releasing them much later, during December, July, all, if you are interested in a daring helicopter rescue, it isn't going to matter much whether you first find out about it now or in a few. months' time, so long as you. make this work, interesting stories would be stored in sealed containers - to mature. like wine - and a committee which should be released to however briefly, a brilliant idea. On the other hand, leafing through a wide selection of the festive press, it becomes quite apparent that's more or less what happens

> > Andrew Marr

QUOTE UNQUOTE

There are genuine agoraphohics, who become panicstricken out of doors. And those whose fears vanish as the betting shops open - Lord Tebbit. on benefit scroungers

I'll eat something out of the fridge with its sell-by date glaring back at me, salmonella winking at me in neon lights. But life's too short. I can't he worrying about salmonella when I'm worrying about hitting my high-Cs - Lesley Garrett, soprano

Virtually every foreign secretary I have ever served with in the past 30 years has fallen fast asleep in my presence Lord Renwick, former British ambassador to Washington

People resent fat-cat businessmen with their noses in the trough, but they don't seem to resent fat-cat footballers earning more in a week than the supporter earns in a year David Mellor, head of the Government's Football Task Force

Conductors should be back on the buses, packets of salt back in the crisps, clockwork back in clocks, and levers back on pens - Penelope Fitzgerald, author, expressing hopes for '98

Raw materials, cheap slaves and heautiful prostitutes -Alexander Prokhanov, 'Izvestio' editor, on what should be portrayed in n new symbol for his country

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15/COMMENT

With its flamingos and parrots, it is paradise in a bubble. It is too seductive to leave



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LICHFIELD **SURRENDERING** TO THE TIMES-

Imagine a muddy forest surrounded by some of the dullest countryside in France. Scattered, implausibly, among the trees are 500 prefab bungalows, a hotel, a shopping mall, a sports centre and a swimming pool, called "The Tropical Aquatic Paradise". The last three are housed in the "bulle" or "bubble", a kind of moon-base, rising Spielbergishly above the pine trees and bungalows. The whole is surrounded by one token, but psychologically significant, strand of barbed wire.

CenterParcs are a Dutch idea, now specessfully exported to Britain and to France. The concept is simple: an inland holiday camp for the relatively affluent and sporty, aimed at families with young or teenage kids, but also popular, by my observation, with groups of parent-fleeing youngsters. Cars are allowed into to off-load only. After that they are banished to a car park at the edge of the wire "for the sake of our children". It is difficult to argue with such a sensible rule. But the distance to the car park also creates a powerful incentive not to stray outside to the surrounding towns. Instead, you spend your money in the restaurants and shops within the wire, Prices in them are irritatingly above the going rate in the free world but not so irritatingly that you are tempted, more than once, to make a Colditz-style mission to eat lunch.

We spent the New Year at the CenterParcs site on the edge of Normandy. The first thing I should say is that the younger members of the family had a wonderful time. The second thing I should say is that I have never heard anyone speak a slighting word about a CenterParc holiday.

Thus it is doubtless my problem that I found the experience spiritually crushing: a paradigm of what is most addictive, compelling and depressing about the late 20th century, the age of the mall and the video-cassette, the age of pre-packaged freedom, of frenetic, but unadventurously easy fun. The CenterPares experience reminded me of East Germany, or, rather, East Germany, as it might have been, if had been run by the Dutch and staffed by the French: a kind of cosy, sporty, bossy, tobotomised world, in which everyone was busy and contented, save a few, puzzled old dissidents like me.

I use the plural in the hope that there were a few other dissidents around but I confess I never made contact with them. There was one French man, of whom, originally, I had high hopes. He gave me a wry, knowing smile on the first day, as if to say "what on earth are we doing here. We are men of the world, used to freedom, adventure, the high road and more than seven channels on the TV."

I complained to him, inarticulately no doubt, about all the bossy rules,



the enforced sense of happy times and the constant, gentle extraction of money. He just grinned. The next day, I met him in the Tropical Aquatic Paradisc as I was juggling with wet towels, arm-bands, a swimming ring, a float-board, three overcoats and three sets of clothes and searching for a five franc piece for the locker, which was somewhat larger than a cigar box. He saw a complaining look on my face and hutted in before I could talk. "C'est bien, n'est ce pas?" When I started to object, he specified: "Eh bien, c'est super pour les gamins. (Well, it's wonderful for the children)". What could one say? Of course it was super for the gamins. The accursed gamins were having a great time.

It might be thought that the individualistic French would resist the regimentation of CenterParcs. Not a bit of it. The two French centres are booked up for the peak periods weeks in advance. It is true that, when it

comes to holidays, the French are among the least packaged nations on earth. But that is largely because they (80 per cent) take their holidays in France. Many of them, 60 per cent according to one study, spend their holidays in their own second homes, or with relatives in the countryside or sponging on friends.

If they are forced to pay for their holidays, the French are rather drawn to a hit of regimentation. Club Med. an np-market CenterParcs, often with worse facilities, was after all a French idea. The French are - against the round-shouldered stereotype - a very sporty nation. French children were recently declared by a Europe-wide investigation to be the fittest in the EU. All in all, the French take to the hyperactive, CenterParcs idea depressingly well. They are, presumably. individualistic within their bungalows while conforming in public; nothing could be more French than that.

The most archetypical of all CenterPare residents, to my eyes, were the two parrots and six flamingos, which always occupied the same branch and same pool of water in the giant, eigarette-smoke filled "bubble" at the heart of the site. Their joh was to help convert the shopping mall and swimming pool into the Tropical Aquatic Paradise, as advertised. They could have flown around the shops if they had wanted to; with a little guile, they could even have escaped. But the hirds saw no reason to cause any trouble, except occasionally to fight amongst themselves. It was warm. They had friends. Their food was brought to them. Their presence entertained the gamins. On our 50th trip to what I insisted on calling the swimming pool. Charlie, aged seven, asked: "But, Daddy, what is a Tropical Automatic

"Automatic paradise": the phrase summed up the place perfectly.

Football mania has a lot to answer for



TREVOR PHILLIPS THE TROUBLE WITH BOYS

Some New York wag once calculated that after you'd discounted the men who were too old, too young, gay, married, unemployed, in prison, about to go into prison, junkies, or downright social misfits, the choice available to a young woman was pretty thin; just one eligible bachelor for every nine women. When the statistic was trotted out, all attached males would chorus "So where's my other eight, then?"

As ever, there's a grain of truth in the satire; and whilst the British can never lay claim to the extremes generated by American society, the statistics released by Scotland Yard this week will cause a shudder among the parents of teenage girls throughout the land. The young women themselves may simply shrug their shoulders: they've suspected for most of their lives that their male peers are worse than useless,

The picture painted by the Scotland Yard study is of loutish, delinquent males, many barely able to write their names. Children, mostly boys under 16, commit two out of every five street robberies, one in three car thefts and a similar proportion of house hurgiaries. Having recently been the victim of auto crime. I can even envisage the sort of little creep we are talking about - but let's not dwell on my prejudices. Instead, we should note that many of these crimes are committed during school hours; not surprisingly, the educational achievement of those who are caught and can therefore be studied, is somewhat lower than that of the average Teletuhby, Interviews of 500 young offenders by the Basic Skills Agency showed that one in five couldn't write their names and addresses properly, half had problems with the time and date, and three out of 10 couldn't fill in a job application form - and none of these was under the influence of illegal substances at the time.

These are people for whom applying to a welfare-to-work scheme, the Big Idea for their salvation, represents an intellectual challenge the size of Mount Everest. The minister responsible for standards in schools has declared himself 'staggered" - a state all 100 familiar to teenage boys following an active Friday night. We will hear his proposals for

Monday, no doubt there will be a task force or two, some new schemes to spread the successful practice by some outstanding headteachers (in line for honours next time round. prohably), and the ohligatory exhortation to teachers to demand more from their male students. But sooner or later someone will have to explain what is going on.

Assuming that there isn't anything being put into the water to depress male IQ, to what can we attribute these findings? One unusual, hut, I think, rather credible cause has recently been brought to my attention: football. A distinguished educationist (who modestly does not wish to be named) has recently drawn my attention to work suggesting that boys are becoming so utterly obsessed by the beautiful game that there is little space left in their little hrains for anything else. On the face of it, this seems

slightly absurd; Sir Tom Finney was as ardently heroworshipped as is Alan Shearer. George Eastham as eagerly followed as is Ian Wright. Small boys imitated George Best's footwork as assiduously as Ryan Giggs's. But a generation ago, football was just one of a number of recreations, alongside cricket, athletics, stampcollecting, war games and the Boy Scouts; today it is a total way of life, Television, the stock market and oodles of money have turned a game into a selfcontained universe. Boys talk about it, watch it, and gain their status from performing on the field, talking about it off the field, knowing its history and statistics inside out. Games teachers complain that potential geniuses in other sports settle for mediocrity in soccer: classroom teachers sigh that half their classes are only whiling away the hours inside before rushing out to the play-

free-kick set pieces. I would yield to no one in my enthusiasm for foothall; anyone channels, maybe there should who has given nearly four be a requirement on them to decades to the cause of Chelsea Football Club needs no further proof of devotion to the sport. However, a diet of football alone must deprive boys of the range of skills that girls are picking up daily - articulacy, manual dexterity, social interactions and all the things which make it possible to read and analyse anything more than the league

ground to practise their latest

remedying the situation on tables. The result is girls forging ahead, and boys with a lack of enthusiasm for anything that involves reading books without pictures, a narrowness of outlook, and an incapacity to communicate in anything other than Graham-Taylor-speak.

It used to be said that hoys, developing later, would catch up in the final years of school, particularly over A-levels. But this year's results showed that, if anything, the opposite is true. For the first time girls performed pretty much as well as boys in science and maths; my own guess is that examiners and teachers' low expectations of girls have always depressed their results. New methods of assessment, which make the outcome less reliant on the all-or-nothing final papers, have lessened the impact of this hias, and we are now seeing a truer reflection of girls' abilities.

However, all is not lost for the male of the species. A number of football clubs are beginning to recognise that their responsibility lies heyond the terraces: Peterborough United, for example, is reinventing itself as a patron of the arts. Arsenal and others are pioneering the equivalent of America's

These are people for whom applying to a welfare-to-work scheme, the Big Idea for their salvation, is an intellectual challenge the size of Mount Everest

foothall scholarships, encouraging boys who would like to be professionals to compete for places with the cluh, not just with their feet hut with their hrains. There is even some talk of roping football clubs into homework schemes for schoolchildren. If foothall is indeed part of the problem, it could also turo out to be part of the solution. And when, later this year, the hig clubs get permission to start their own TV make an effort to persuade their young viewers to learn to read and write. After all, the head and the feet can work at the same time; the former captain of Brazil, the world's greatest footballing nation, was a certain Brasileiro Sampaio Vieira de Oliveira, DPhil; not for nothing was his playing name

Not everything shrinks with movie therapy



Stuffed into the sofa, you can't move after the over-indulgence of Christmas and are thus trapped by the horrors of the festive season. Worse, you only realise this when you have just watched with horrible fascination 20 minutes of the World's

Strongest Man competition. You cannot hudge until you know whether the Swede, the Dane or the Finn will lift more slot machines, run round and round carrying a rock (an ancient Icelandic custom apparently) and push a truck across the finishing line first. (For your information, I think it was the Finn but all the muscles started to look alike after a bit.) That is the nightmare of

Watching Christmas specials or films you've seen zillions of times (I made a personal vow not to stay up for Airplane this year) always seemed an occupational hazard of the season. But thanks to Bernie Wooder - Britain's first film therapist -I've come to look at this in a different light. Mr Wooder prescribes

various films to help people come to terms with their problems. Recently MGM asked him to endorse The Wizard of Oz which has just been rereleased. He was happy to agree as he thinks characters in the film are useful role models.

The idea is that if you are woolly-headed and unintelligent you identify with the Scarecrow, mechanical and going through the motions you bond with the Tin Man; tense and frightened you concentrate on the Lion and thus work out how to deal with your madequacies. As 1 tend to go through all those emotions within half an hour of reaching work, I came to the conclusion I should be watching The Wizard rather than The Big Breakfast every morning.

For most people, New Year's resolutions, apart from putting the lid back on the toothpaste and not drinking more than the level recommended by the Department of Health, usually include some sort of inner improvement. However most of us never manage it. There is al-

ways therapy but is it worth waiting 10 years to unscramble your psyche and then find that you've managed to scramble some new parts of it in the process?

So Mr Wooder's film therapy may he the answer: tilms rarely last more than two hours and hingo - a newer better you! For The Wizard of Oz is not the only film which Mr Wooder feels can help. He recommends The Full Monty for those who are feeling the problems of redundancy, Pretty Woman for those with poyfriend problems (so does that mean become a hooker, girls, and he'll fall in love?) and Rebecca for those in second marriage who feel haunted by the shadow of a previous partner (presumably you end up feeling that your husband may have been married to the most exquisite woman in the world but at least you don't have

recurring dreams about bloody Manderley and Judith Anderson isn't hanging around). And what better time to achieve good karma than the festive period when there are

In that lot there must be some sort of panacea for every phohia, neurosis and had habit. A quick flick through Radio

Tuncs supplies the answer. For thirtysomethings trying to deeide whether to have children or a career. Home Alone 2: Lost in New York puts forward the pros and cons concisely (girls, would you really want risk giving hirth to a child like Macaulay Culkin?). Or do you feel shy and insecure about your performance in the discotheque? Pulp Fiction provides some useful hints and a step-by-step guide to asking that woman of your dreams to dance. Finding it difficult to achieve closure in that relationship? Watch Gone With The Wind, (which can also he combined for women hoping to pick up tips on how to set up their own sawmill husiness).

But just as experts warn that conventional treatment can harm as well as benefit you. potentially there are worrying consequences of watching the wrong film. How many people have chosen hanking as a career more than 900 films on the telly.

@B Ø ●

under the impression Jim Carrey gave them that they get to wear a magic mask and meet Cameron Diaz? In years to come we could see an influx of cats in psychiatric wards feeling that they're never going to get on in the rat race after exposure to Tom and Jeny - The Movie. And giving up the veil to become a governess to a large brood of Austrians does not inevitably mean you get to marry Christopher Plummer. Honest.

Most worrying of all, are there even now hordes of people setting aside any hint of scepticism and roaming parties repeating in an annoying voice: "Life is like a box of chocolates Forrest. You never know what you're going to get," Social services are going to be picking up the hill in 30 years for those poor innocents exposed to Forest Gump. At the end of the day, that great movie maker himself Samuel Goldwyn would have a word for those seeking therapy through films: anyone who goes to see a shrink needs their head examined.





broadcaster: born Ramsgate, Kent 5 February 1920; Assistant Head, BBC Light Entertainment Group 1960-64; Head of Entertainment, London Weekend Television 1968-69; President, Johnson Society, Lichfield 1975-76; Rector, St Andrews University 1977-79; CBE 1980: married 1949 Polly McIrvine (one son, one daughter); died Thorpe, Surrey 2 January 1998.

Before Frank Muir and Denis Norden, scriptwriting was not seen as a profession, and in fact it has never really developed be- scure words, thus haffling his youd what they chose to describe as "a cottage industry" that is, two hlokes in a room inventing humour. It's a far ery from the American "Ten writers, no waiting" approach. hut has produced as much good comedy as the high-tech American method.

That it is as it is, is in many ways down to Muir and Norden. Muir's phrase, "a comedian's labourer".

In a way, Frank Muir was wo people. A carefully hooed foppishness, the pink bow tie, the lisp, the tweeds and the retired lieutenant-colonel manner, hid from most people the astute, creative and, above all, authoritative writer. With Denis Norden, his

long-term partner, both as writer and television and radio panellist, he penned some of the most memorable radio comedies. Breakfast With Braden, Take It From Here (from which The Glums sprang) and much else hesides. Together they wrote for television Whack-O!, starring Jimmy Edwards, with whom Muir had a particular affinity, and, again for Edwards, The Seven Faces of Jim.

I suppose that for many viewers Muir will be remembered as the suave and beguiling team leader on the television panel game Call My Bluff where, whether in harness with Patrick Campbell or later with Arthur Marshall, and under the beady eye of Robert Rohinson, he spun fantasies and elegant descriptions of obopponents and viewers alike.

He became, with Denis Norden, the (almost) ever-present member of the quartet which made the quarter-century or so of BBC Radio's My Word! and My Music and massively entertained a world-wide audience which rejoiced in the humour and the

erudition of those programmes. Later, also on radio, in the who proved that a scriptwriter series Frank Muir Goes Into . . .

from the BBC archives, he held Jeeves than Wooster, usually the centre with unfaltering skill.

Behind the scenes of BBC Television, again with Denis put and was later head of comedy at the BBC before crossing over to ITV as head of Weekend Television, where, in spite of some flops, notably We Have Ways of Making You Laugh (which optimistic boast proved unfounded), he conjured up such long-running successes as Please Sir and On the Buses.

When the management team resigned en bloc in protest at the sacking of the programme controller, Cyril Bennett, Muir returned to radio and, in addition, became a skilful writer of children's books based on the character and behaviour of the Muir family dog, What-a-Mess. The first book, published in 1977, was followed by 16 other volumes describing in charming detail the adventures of this accidentprone Afghan hound.

The collections of My Word! anecdotes, reproducing Muir and Norden's tortuous puns, You Can't Have Your Kayak and Heat It (1973) being a typical example, sit happily on the shelves with other of his written works, including the massive The Oxford Book of Humorous Prose: from William Caxton to P.G. Wodehouse (1989).

In a way, Muir seemed like a Wodehouse character, a snufftaking cluhman (the Garrick so brilliant was the wordplay, was his favourite watering hole) and a dandy, his style of dress being in a way his visual signa-

getting things right. His one novel, The Walpole Orange, published in 1993, was set in a West Norden, Muir advised the cor- End gentlemen's club and was, poration on their comedy out- to be honest, patchy. It had great moments, but touches of fustian, too.

His autobiography, A Kentish comedy at the newborn London Lad, published last autumn, went at once into the bestsellers' list. In it he recorded anecdotes of his childhood and his RAF service, which was spent largely in Iceland, where he was stationed as an aerial phoographer. He commented, When we had a plane we didn't have a camera, and when we had a camera we didn't have a plane." But his natural gifts found expression in entertaining

> sional world of scriptwriting. For three years he was the Rector of St Andrews University, which he says was "spending three lovely years an ending

his fellow airmen and these

hlossomed after the war into a

successful career in the profes-

church with a terrific choir". Muir, a devout Anglican, is quoted as saying: "I think there is some kind of after-life, but it's not pearly gates. I wish it to

remain a mystery." - Barry Took

When I first came to England as a drama student and heard Frank Muir and Denis Norden's Take It From Here, I assumed I was listening to a radio adaptation of an S.J. Perelman piece, writes Dick Vosburgh.

Week after week, the film takeoffs which ended the show was more than, to use Frank a ragbag of comic moments ture tune. He was, in fact, more glittered with outrageous puns don . . . Moored!"

... Shakespeare shouting to the landlord of the Mermaid Tavern, "See what the boys in the huckram will havel" . . . Dracula saying to a potential victim, "Won't you join me in the oldfashioned vaults?" Or a New York gangster who - having been told that the police have thrown a cordon around the area, stretching all the way down to the Staten Island ferry - exclaims: "You mean there's a ferry at the bottom of our cordon?" In another sketch. Sherlock Holmes said to Lady Baskerville, "Surely deep, deep down, your guardian has some ideas or theories about this spectral hound?" - only to be told, "Yes, there are theories at the bottom of my guardian."

In 1956 Muir and Norden were finally given the opportunity to deliver such extravagant puns in person, when the radio literary quiz My Word! took the air. Each would be asked to give, by the end of the programme. the origin of various quotations. The inventions by both men were brilliant, but my favourite was Muir's fandango around the song title "Come into the Garden, Maud". He told a sad story about joining a yacht club and falling madly in love with a member called Carmen. On hearing that his adored one and a yachtsman ealled Toothy Gordon had "sailed together into the harhour of matrimony and were moored together for life", he confessed that he could do nothing but sit and mutter again and again:

"Carmen ... Toothy Gor-



'A cottage industry': Muir, left, with Denis Norden in 1954

Photograph: Popperfoto

Blue chips a

Helen Wills Moody

Helen Wills, tennis player: born Berkeley, California 6 October 1905; winner, Ladies' Singles, American Lawn Tennis Championship 1923, 1924, 1925, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1931; winner, Women's Singles, English Lawn Tennis Championship 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1932, 1933, 1935, 1938; winner, Ladies' Singles French Lawn Tennis Championship 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930; married 1929 dissolved 1937), 1939 Aidan Roark (marriage dissolved); died Carmel, California I January 1998.

She came out of California, trained to be a tennis champion, determined to win the prizes of consequence in her sport. She was a private person performing on a public stage, playing the game with unerring accuracy and control, refusing to reveal her emotions to frequently outclassed and overwhelmed opponents. Above all else, Helen Wills Moody was a person who knew precisely what she wanted in life and achieved most of her goals with meticulous care for her craft and high intelligence, seldom looking back on anything she had done with

remorse or frustration. This remarkable American achieved on an astounding scale from the early 1920s until the late 1930s, producing a record few could ever hope to equal or beaten only once in 56 match-



Helen Wills at Wimbledon in 1924 Photograph: Hulton Getty

times in her native American Championships at Forest Hills (now known as the US Open), came through four times to win the French Championships in Paris, and captured eight singles titles on the fahled lawns of Wimhledon, where she was stretch of time, "Little Miss Pok- as the best player in the world

er Face" was victorious seven no fewer than nine times. At one stage between 1927 and 1933, she did not lose a single

set, let alone a match. But Helen Wills Moody was worthy of praise for more than the sum of her accomplishments. She set herself apart with the size and scope of her competitive appetite, demonstrating surpass. In that memorable es. She was unofficially ranked an uncommon courage and composure when it twice ap-

peared as if her career might be Appendicitis abruptly cur-

tailed her activities in 1926 when she was only 20, hut she restored herself convincingly by the following year. Then, after a debilitating back injury kept her out of the game in 1934, she returned with complete conviction in 1935 to win her penultimate Wimhledon nearing the age of 33, she ruled at the All England Club for the cognoscenti had virtually given up on her. She was a baseline player

who could drive the ball with more pace and depth off the ground than any of her rivals. She dominated her matches with both power and precision, cutting down her opponents by directing the ball rhythmically and relentlessly from corner to corner, forcing foes into mistakes by virtue of her extraordinary command of the court. The combination of her placid demeanour and her assertive style of play was what made her a champion of the highest order; neither the strategic framework of her game nor her supreme helief in herself could ever be called into question. As the revered New York Times

writer Allison Danzig put it, Power under control and the ability to hit the ball harder than any other woman on the courts were rensible for the rise of Miss Wills. sponsinte for the fise of the ability to mask her feelings, to maintain an inscrutable countenance in the face of the vicissitudes of match

play, was the characteristic that de the deepest impression upon the tennis galleries.

Wills Moody's upbringing surely had much to do with her successes later in life. Her father, Clarence Wills, was a surgeon who got her started with tennis when she was eight. Her mother. Catherine Anderson Wills, was a University of California graduate who played championship. Finally, in 1938, an even more crucial role in the evolution of this immensely driven woman. Mrs Wills was as last time when most of the undemonstrative as Helen, a quiet leader providing strength when it was most needed. She attended all of Helen's tournaments from 1921 to 1930, and shared an unusually warm and close relationship with her daughter. Helen, too, attended the University of California. learning to sketch and draw with admirable skill, even remarking

fleetingly at the time. "Art will he my life." Not surprisingly, she was an honour student, a Phi Beta Kappa who remarked of her time in the classroom: "I had a complete lack of interest in learning for the sake of knowing something. I was, in the truest sense of the word, a 'cup hunter' in the field of

scholarship." Be that as it may, she distinguished herself with her fine sketches, making drawings of many of the women she competed against. But her talent outside the confines of the tennis court did not stop there. As the New York Herald Tribune

recalled. Wills Moody could put her pen to useful purposes. writing respectable articles for the London newspapers in the

1930s. As Laney said: She did all right financially while abroad by writing for the London pa-pers. I heard at the time what the fig-ure was for the pieces, but I have forgotten, although I still am able to report that tennis champions were paid at a much higher rate in those days for reporting tennis than regu-lar tennis writers. In fairness to Miss Wills. I must say that they were very well written pieces and I was assured that she wrote them herself, entirely without professional help. I was impressed with her literary talent. Clearly, however, she was most gifted when she held a racket in her hand, moving with serenity and authority

the 1947 Wimbledon champion Jack Kramer said: t was convinced at one time - and things have changed with Martina Navratilova coming along to play so well on grass, with Steffi Graf looking for so long like a world beater, and with Monica Seles taking over with her new style of game - but for the longest while t thought that Heen Wills Moody was right up there with Pauline Betz as the best woman

players I have ever seen. I played against Helen Wills, Helen Jacobs and Alice Marble when I was the US boys champion. I felt t was quite a good player for a 15-year-old, but Helen was a very tough match for me while Jacobs and Marble who were also fine players were not up to her calibre. Later on t played mixed doubles with her when she was in her forties and it was hard to believe how good she was.

Remarkably, despite all of

resulted in a defeat. Facing Frenchwoman Suzanne Lenglen at Cannes in February 1926 for the one and only time in their careers, Wills was beaten 6-3, 8-6 in what the renowned dress designer and authoritative critic Ted Tinling called "the first

and Bobby Riggs in 1973". The high drama of the occasion was justified in light of the greatness of the two competitors. They were universally regarded as the two greatest players of the first half of the 20th century, and this conthrough the major champifrontation was a unique chaponships. In assessing the impact ter in their productive lives. The of her career a few years ago.

best of Wills Moody as a player was certainly ahead of her while Lenglen's most dominant days were nearly over. In any case, recalling the moment of that match 60 years after it amusingly irreverent about it all. "The first thing I remember," she said in 1986.

is that my mother did not want me to go. My father didn't see much point in it either. I just don't know why I thought it was the end of the world to leave the University of California to go to the South of France. Why did I? I almost cried I wanted to go so much: I begged and begged, and looking back it doesn't make any sense at all.

In any event, Helen Wills Moody always handled her private life with dignity and with-

correspondent Al Laney once her prodigious successes, the out any unnecessary fuss or exmost famous contest she played - citement. She divorced Fred Moody, a stockbroker, in 1937 the incomparably charismatic after eight years of marriage, then married Aidan Roark, n film writer, two years later. This second marriage lasted much longer, but she was divorced from Roark in the early 1970s.

By then, still living in her hig show-husiness match in the beloved California, she had behistory of tennis, the sort of pre- come something of a recluse. decessor for Billie Jean King but her friends and former associates understood her need to isolate herself. "In the latter stages of her life,"-recalled Kramer.

she just happened to want to be alone and that was fine. Nothing could disturb her when she wanted something. She would make up her mind that she was going to do something in a certain way, and that was the way it usually was. She was a very nice person, very considerate, and a quality individual all the way.

Ted Tinling had seen this side of Helen Wills Moody long before the end of her life, and he correlated her attitude happened, Wills Moody was to her striking appearance. "With the exception of Garbo." explained Tinling.

> I have seen all the best-looking women in the world face-to-face and, in the beanty stakes, Helen Wills was very definitely in the top league. She had a flawless complexion with her facial bone structure and her finely chiselled features were reminiscent of a piece of screne classical sculpture. In dramatic contrast, she had the Marlene Dietrich technique of a conversation.

She was certainly the Garbo of tennis, always wanting to be alone and away from her fellow competitors.

- Steve Flink

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Birthdays

TODAY: Brigadier Sir John Anstey, former President, National Savings Committee, 9t; Mr David Atherton, music director, Hong Kong Philhar-monic Orchestra, 54; Mr John Bamborough, former Principal, Linacre College, Oxford, 77: Mr Michael Barratt, television presenter, 70; Mr Victor Borge, musician and comedian, 89; Mr Keith Brookman, General Secretary, Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, 60; Sir Robin Butler, Secretary of the Cahinei and Head of the Civil Service, 60; Professor Sir Bryan Carsberg, Secretary General, International Accounting Standards Comminee, 59; Mr Fran Conon, for-Committee, 5%, for rean Conton, for-mer rugby international, 50; Sir Alastair Forbes, former judge, 90; Mr Mel Gibson, actor, 42; Mr Richard Hanbury-Renison, Lord-Lieutenant of Gwent, 73; Sir Roy Harding, educa-tionist, 74; Mr John Paul Jones, rock musician and producer, 52: Admiral Sir Michael Layard, former Second Sea Lord, Chief of Naval Per-sonnel, 62; Miss Anya Linden (Lady Sainsbury of Presion Candover), atlerina, 65; Sir George Martin, chairman, Air group, 71: Mr Eric Martlew MP. 49: Sir Carol Mather, former MP, 79; Mr Sieg-mund Nissel, former member of the Amadeus Quartet, 76; Sir John Riddell, former royal equerry, 64; Miss Eirlys Roberts, former Deputy Director, Consumers' Association, 87; Mr Graham Ross Russell, Chairman, Securities Institute, 64; Mr Robert Steedman, architect, 69; Mr Matthew Taylor MP, 35: Mr John Thaw, actor,

56; Mr David Vine, BBC sports commentator, 62.

TOMORROW: Mrs Jackie Ballard MP, 44; Miss Grace Bumhry, opera and concen singer, 61; Miss Dyan Can-ton, actress, 59; Mr Alexander Chantion, actress, 59; for Alexander Chan-cellor, journalist, founding editor of the Independent Magazine, 58; Capt Sir Ivar Colquhoun of Luss Bt, Chief of the Clan Colquhoun, 82; Mr Iain Cuthbertson, actor, 68; Mr Alan Dyer, former Chief Constable, Bedford-shire, 64; Professor Keith Hancock, economist, 63; LI-Cdr Sir Ian Clark Hinchison, a member of the Queen's Body Guard for Scotland, 95; Pro-fessor Brian Josephson, physicist, 58; Air Vice-Marshal Richard Kyle, 55; Professor Lance Lanyon, Principal, Royal Veterinary College, 54; Mr John McLaughlin, hlues and jazz guitarist, 55: Miss Margaret Marshal concert and opera singer, 49; Mr Mick Mills, footballer, 49; Mr Floyd Patterson, boxer, 63; Mr Nicholas Payne, Director, Royal Opera, Covent Garden, 53; Baroness Pitkeath-ley, chief executive, Carers National Association, 57: Mr Timothy Rix, pubisher, 64; Miss Barbara Rush, actress, 68; Mrs Phyllis Starkey MP, 50; Sir Alan Thomas, chairman, Firth Holdings plc, 55; Mrs Audrey Wise MP, 63; Mrs Jane Wyman, actress, 84.

Changing of the Guard
TODAY The Household Lordry Mounted Regiment
monate the Guard's Life Guard at Horse Guard's
I and it Selection Web the Guard mount the Quard's
Guard, at Bactelington Polices, 11.50m. fond prostatily the Web Lordry TOHOMPOW To Hoselthe Web Lordry TOHOMPOW To HoselLife Count of a Horse Guardy, 10m.

FAITH & REASON

The cross which falls across the cradle

Christmas has not yet come for the Eastern Church, which celebrates it next week. It will be an altogether more muted affair than that in the West. Andrew Walker, a member of the Russian Orthodox Church, explains why.

Epiphany it might come as a surprise to learn that the Eastern Orthodox Church makes at least as much of it, if not more, than Christmas. This is partly a question of history. Christmas is the last of the great liturgical feasts to he incorporated into the Church's calendar. The Nativity was not celehrated in any major way hefore the third century, and the 25th of December not generally fixed as Christmas Day until the end of the

As Western Christians prepare for

Eastern Church was already celebrating Epiphany as one of its great feasts, second in importance only to

Over time Christmas came to equal Epiphany in significance but it never overwhelmed it or shuoted it aside. Culturally, also, the Orthodox Church has never capitulated to the consumerism of Western Xmas. St Nicholas has never transmuted into the Father Christmas of Western Europe, or into the Santa Claus of North America.

It is true that hishops in the Russian church will sometimes stand in for St Nicholas and distribute, or at least hand over, presents to Orthodox children after Christmas Day hut this is in no seose linked to the notion of a commercial festive season: presents, if they exist at all, are modest and more a gesture of geoerosity - of Christian largesse - than giving children their "heart's desire". There are certainly fourth century. By that time the local festive customs, such as the eat-shadow over the manger.

ing of carp on Christmas Day, for example, but on the whole Christmas is a thoroughly muted affair compared

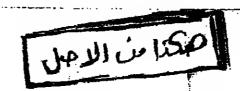
to its Western counterpart. differences between Eastern and Western Christmas are theological. Eastern theology is governed by the Easter Event. The "joy to the world" of Western Christmas is centred in Eastern liturgy on the great Easter shout of "Christ is Risen" and the affirmation of the people that "he is forward to Easter shares in that joy hut also foreshadows the tragedy of the fact that the child born to be king also came to die. Even in one of his famous hymns to the Nativity, St Ephrem (c306-373) writes of the child who will defeat death by death: "Let us thaok him who killed death by his dying." And in a famous Russian icon the angel Gahriel carries a cross to the Nativity where it casts a all eternity is God".

sobriety is reflected also in the fact that the great feast is approached through fasting until the day of rejoicing ar-But perhaps the really interesting rives. (In an age of conspicuous consumption we might call this a political statement.) But perhaps the most interesting feature of Orthodox Christmas is that it is an experience that the Church keeps to itself. It is almost as if Christmas is a secret. When the Holy One of God entered the world as a vulnerable mewling babe, only Joseph risen indeed". Christmas in looking and Mary, some shepherds, and a few wise men had any inkling what earth shattering event had taken place. God was incarnate in a mystery that was oot yet for public uoveiling. Iodeed as Orthodox traditioo puts it there was no room for Mary and Jesus in the inn, so, as human society had rejected the mother literally pregnant with divinity, "the earth offereth the cave to him ... who from

And it is against this background and whose reign shall last for ever.

This joy tinged with sadness and of public rejection, of a hushed celehration by the people of God; of a confident confidentiality by those loyal to the Christ-child, that the great celehration of Epiphany makes sense Christmas may belong to the inner life of the Church, but Epiphany is the time when the secret is out, not merely shouted from the rooftops but confirmed from the heavens. As the kontakion for Epiphany says of Christ, "Thou art manifested today to the whole world," This public revelation is not only of Jesus as the God-Man prefiguring his passion by dying and rising again from the waters of bap-tism, but of God being manifested in triunity as Father, Soo, and Holy.

At Christmas the Church guards the boy-king from the prying eyes of the merely curious and the enemies of God, but at Epiphany the Church confesses that the man-king is lord of lords whose kingdom is oow at hand



Blue chips advance into the new year amid light trading

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

Shares started the year on a interest provided sufficient the Stock Exchange rethink, division is due to be an-soon-possibly, if Westminster high cote with Footsie rising incentive to push prices ahead. 58 points to 5,193.5. But the Turnover was an insignificant half-day session at the end of 130.7 million shares and the the festive fortnight seemed session was duhbed a "waste unreal, with few stock market of time" by some market men. men in attendance and little investment interest.

opening day of last year when succession of new highs, con- prices and a revised calculation a good start with double figfounding most observers.

As Richard Kersley of missed by everyone. Most

Footsie gave ground in the last few minutes of trading. Even so, Footsie's display The fall, 10.3 points, was much was in sharp contrast to the less than on New Year's Eve when the index dropped 31.8 the index fell 61.1. Then, of points before the Stock Excourse, it went on to hit a change adjusted some sbare

was produced. Halifax, one of the shares BZW points out: "The revalued upwards, was one of and Marks & Spencer 5.5p to strength of the bull run was the few financial fallers. It lost 604.5p. 4p to 760p. Most, reflecting

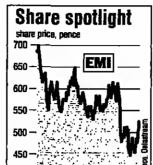
had the audacity to recover all its imposed loss - gaining 40p to 1,095p. Other insurances Corporation and Legal &

General. Retailers drew some comfort from the John Lewis trading statement which showed higher December sales bolstered by a late rush.

The January sales got off to ure gains. It was enough to edge Next 16p higher to 708p

nounced this month. Cash clearance can be obtained, rich Associated British Foods one of the generators. is thought to be interested but higher included Prudential could run into monopoly problems.

Southern Electric, the only floated seven years ago, hardened 18p to a 524p peak. It is even Whitbread. expected to attract a predator



Others to attract modest interest on takeover hopes included Reckitt & Colman and Greenalls. R&C is regarded as quoted survivor of the 12 a likely Unilever acquisition; regional electricity companies Greenalls is seen as a possible target for Allied Domecq or

> There is a suggestion Allied and Bass could make a joint bid with Allied settling for the pubs and wholesaling operation and Bass the hotels. Any Whitbread assault would probably herald the end of the

TAKING STOCK

constituents. Logica hardened

20p to a 1,177.5p peak and

Sherwood International also

hit a high with a 40p gain to

572.5p. Misys, the sector's

higgest company, put on 12.5p

85p. Channel Hotels and

Properties and associates now

control almost 30 per cent of

the capital, Last year CNC, the

old Clarke Nickolls & Coombs

sweets business, disclosed a

mystery takeover approach.

One name in the frame was

Wiggins, the property group.

But the bidder walked away.

CNC Properties firmed to

to 1,842.5p, also a record

With a few exceptions football club shares have failed to score with investors. One of the worst performers is Loftus Road, controlled by entertainment tycoon Chris Wright. The shares, seemingly weighed down by a steady stream of small sell orders. fell 2.5p to 29.5p, a new low. A few mouths after being floated at 72p in October 1996 they touched 106.5p.

The loss-making group has ambitious expansion plans but its two operations, the Queens Park Rangers football club and Wasps rugby club, have failed to perform, with QPR stuck in

		missed by everyone. Most observers, ourselves included, began the year with a worried view of bond markets and saw equities in a similar light." The opening advance looked fragile. A handful of buy orders, very little selling.	Insurances pushed ahead. General Accident, lowered by	Bass, selling its betting shops to Ladhroke for £375.5m, put on 9.5p to 954p. The brewer is thought to be attempting to clinch a hotel take over. Ladbroke rose 4p to 268p. Dalgety firmed to 279.5p. The sale of its food ingredients	550 — 500 — 550 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 — 500 —	probably heraid the end of the group's brewing involvement. Nycomed Amersham led the Footsie leader board with a 100p gain to 2,250p. EMI, the showbiz group, gained 22p to 530p, reflecting a new year tip. The arrival of an Information Technology sector continued to spur most of the 88	Wiggins closed at a 13.25p peak. Environmed, the healthcare group where bidders are thought to lurk, fell 1.5p to 11p and Shield Diagnnstic, last year's top performing sbare, gave up 22.5p to 695p on the inevitable take profits advice.	perfirm, with QPR stuck in the middle reaches of Nationwide Division One and Wasps near the bottom of the Allied Dunbar Premiership. Head hunter Whitehead Mann climbed 18.5p to a 217.5p peak; there is talk of a US strike.
Photogram	Price Chg Yid Pric Code 14	7.5 Modelmers 7.00 - 2.5 0.3 0.70 0.5 0.7 0.7 0.7 0.7 0.7 0.7 0.7 0.7 0.7 0.7	Low Stock Price Chg Yld P/ECode Practive Inclustries AugAm Pix (2) 0 5 - 357240 350 20 AugAm Pix (2) 0 5 - 357240 350 20 AugAm Pix (2) 0 5 - 357240 350 20 AugAm Pix (2) 0 5 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0 4107 - 0	10	272 948 Panchaon Inst 20,50 +1,50 644 287 66 Pry Eury 60,75 +0,75 7,	8	The Independent Teleshare To access Real-Time You will hear the current FTSE 100 is not care in supership Number to set-up your The Brongs on this page. To get a Membership Number to set-up your Teleshare the Brongs on this page.	g exampordinary stems but including exceptionals. It's Suspended, p Pardy Pald: np Nif Pald: *AlM. Source: Bloomberg - Tell. 0891 - 201 200 e Share Prices, 24 hours a day, call 0891 - 201 200. Index followed by a Scock Market Summary Report. Time Strare Price by keying * plus a 4-digit 'code' from Portfolio facility, please call the Help Desk on 071- 100 facility, call the Help Desk on 071-729-9288. 8891 calls cost 50p per minutes. Gilts indext n/a
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BT to 'cold call' 15 million customers to fight off challenge from rival networks

British Telecom is embarking on the UK's largest-ever customer "cold-calling" initiative, with plans to ring 15 million of its domestic subscribers at least four times a year. Chris Godsmark, Business Correspondent, examines BT's bid to fight off the competitive challenge from rival networks.

For the hulk of BT's residential customers the new year will hring more than a post-Christmas hangover. Some 15 million households, those which are not members of low-spending hudget plans, are about to receive the first "cold-call" from one of BT's recently established call centres.

BT said yesterday that it would ring these customers four times, amounting to at least 60 million separate calls, every 12 months. The two-pronged strategy aims to ensure customers are satisfied with BT's existing service, including identifying any discounts not claimed, while attempting to sell extra products such as a second phone line.

Most customers will be called in the evening or at weekends, when they are likely to be at home, though BT said it would ahide by a telemarketing code of practice. A spokesman defended the plan, arguing homes would not be rung up early in the morning, or after 9pm each night. Homes which objected to heing called could opt out of the campaign, though BT insisted most customers were happy.

We don't regard this as cold-calling. because we already have an ongoing relationship with these customers. We write to them eight times each year anyway," said the spokesman.

The approach, easily the higgest coldcalling exercise in the UK so far, is supported by BT's £100m investment in call centres, which has so far created around 3,000 new jobs. The ocwest two telemarketing centres opened recently at Doncaster and Gosforth on North Tyneside, each with 650 telemarketing terminals.

Operators are given pre-programmed calls from computer tapes, which provide information on customers' existing calling patterns, and read their questions from the terminal screen. The staff mostly work part cable companies, who are signing up oew



Calling the nation: Call centres for telephone-based selling have become one of the biggest growth areas of the 1990s

Photograph: Tom Pilston

hour. Operators are graded in league tables, monitoring the amount of new business generated. Call Centres have become one of the hig growth areas of the 1990s with financial services companies such as First Direct and Direct Line establishing bases for their telephone-based businesses.

The move is BT's latest response to the challeoge from competitors such as the time and earn commission for products sold residential customers, mostly poached of national calls made would, according to

to supplement basic pay of about £4.50 an from BT, at the rate of about 150,000 a Oftel, fall to just 50 per cent, while the group month. The higgest cahle group, Cable & Wireless Communications, laid down the gauntlet to BT last year with a £50m advertising campaign.

Last month Oftel, the UK telecoms watchdog, raised its forecast for the erosion of BT's domestic customer base, predicting that its share of residential exchange lines would drop to 70 per cent by 2000, from around 91 per cent today. BT's share

would account for just 40 per cent of international calls.

The cold-calling campaign aims not just to hold on to customers, hut to offset the damage from competition by encouraging dividends, with 14 million customers now members of the Friends and Family scheme.

BT has combined the cold-calling policy can marketing adviser.

The figures also confirmed

hank and huilding society

reports that mortgage lending

was weaker at £1.9hn in No-

vemher compared with £2.2bn

the previous month. However.

the annual growth rate for home

loans remained unchanged at 5.9

per cent, well up from the pre-

Christmas adverts promoting a 20 per cent homes to use the phone more often BT her; despite the fact that the price reductive But appens reckoo the remaining businesses claims the strategy has already paid, tion does not take effect until Mayor and will fetch more modest prices. By applying

with an advertising strategy increasingly shifted towards promoting special offers and discounted services such as Friends and Family. In the most recent case this saw discount off one Frieods and Family num a multiple of about one times annual sales.

in talks about several potential deals, but refused to comment on specific cases. Charles Miller-Smith, ICI's chief execsearchers se utive, has mapped out a future for the group in which it pulls out of cyclical, capital-intenystery of sea sive bulk chemicals in favour of specialised chemicals with a high value-added content. That strategy inspired the acquisition of Unilever's speciality chemicals businesses

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Basically, anything outside the paints materials and speciality chemicals divisions is up for sale," said Phillip Morrish, chemicals analyst at Nikko Securities. ICI's recent disposals have been sold for

Promise of

Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI)

is planning to sell what remains

businesses in the coming year, in

a move which could raise £1.2bn.

next stage of the chemical giant's

The news came as ICI announced the com pletion of the sale of its polyester polyme

businesses to DuPont, which was announced

in July. The group also said further "sub-

stantial" disposals could be expected in

block include ICT's North American tita-

nium dioxide interests; its Runcorn-based chlorine-manufacturing subsidiary and

divisions making polymers and chemicals

that replace ozone-destroying CFC gases.

before ICI reports its annual results in Feb-

ruary. An ICI spokesman said the group was

in July for £4.9bn. ICI subsequently targeted

£3bn of disposals over three years to reduce

raised £3.6bn in just six months.

give it the firepower to do so.

debt. But in a whirlwind of activity it has

Now the group is keen to complete the

transition. Analysts also think ICI wants to

ciality chemicals. Further disposals would

pursue smaller bolt-on acquisitions in spe-

Several announcements are expected

1998, ICI shares firmed 8p to 959p. According to experts, husinesses on the

Peter Thal Larsen reports on the

of its industrial chemicals

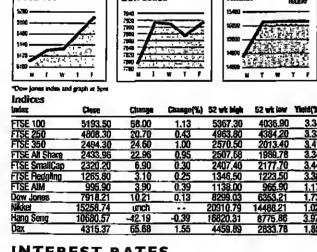
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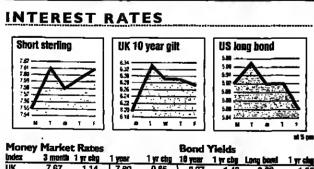
disposals

lifts ICI

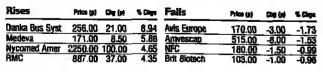
The campaigns, more aggressive than a sales multiple of 0.6 to the industrial dithe "good to talk" approach of the past are ? wision's remaining £2ho of turnoves: Metaround double the membership a year ago. the brainchild of Ed Carter, BT's Ameri- rill-Lynch analyst Robyn Coombs calculates that the unit is worth £1.2bn.

STOCK MARKETS

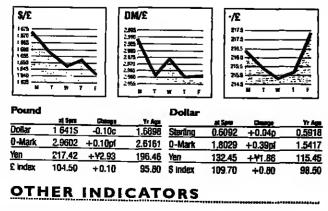




MAIN PRICE CHANGES



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Gold (\$)	288.15	-0 60	365.55	RPI	159.60	3.70	153.91	Jan
Silver (S)	5.94	-0.05	477	Base R		7.25	6.00	<u> </u>
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Surge in consumer borrowing dampens rate hopes

Figures showing a big rise in consumer credit in November, along with an upbeat trading statement from the John Lewis group, suggested pre-Christmas reports of a slowdown on the high street were exaggerated. It is not safe yet to rule out further interest rate increases, analysts concluded. Dinne Coyle, Economics Editor, gets the measure of seasonal spending.

New borrowing by consumers jumped by £1.2bn in November, figures yesterday. It was the annual growth rate in lending

for rail link tunnels

widespread view that the a firm downward trend. summer spending boom is over.

Earlier figures showing slower growth in retail sales during the same month, and anecdotal evidence from stores. had fuelled hopes that there was already enough of a slowdown to persuade the Bank of England to hold off raising interest rates again. Many City economists predict at most one more rate rise, and that not before February when the economic picture will he clearer.

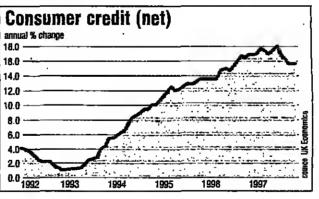
However, yesterday's evidence indicated that these hopes might vet prove premature.

The surprise November consumer credit rise was £300m higher than the previous according to Bank of England month's figure. It took the

biggest monthly increase since up a fraction to 15.4 per cent. Fehruary, and undermined the halting what had appeared to be

The increase was dominated by a £522m rise in loans advanced by "other specialist lenders", much of which could have been linked to car sales. In 1997 these reached the highestever total for November.

vious year's pace of increase.



Former Foreign Secretary joins F&C as a part-time director

funding in the middle of this year The construction of the highspeed Channel Tunnel rail link through the flotation of LCR is set to take an important step and a debt issue. The share offer will raise £1bn-£1.5bn. forward with the award of contracts worth £550m for the tun-But it emerged yesterday nels which will carry the line into that a number of the contrac-

London's St Pancras station. London & Continental Railways, the consortium selected to build the £5.4bn link, is expected to place the contracts early this month, laying to rest worries ahout whether the project would go ahead.

LCR set to award contracts

LCR had intended to award the tunnelling contracts before Christmas and the delay renewed fears that the financing of the project might be in difficulty. In November, the consortium quashed speculation that the 68-mile link might be built only as far as Stratford, east London, or Ehbsfleet in Kent as a cost-saving measure. However, LCR is in talks

with up to six other parties, including Railtrack, about alternative ways of financing or huilding the link.

The intection is to raise

tors hidding for work on the project might also be interested in taking small equity stakes in LCR. Tarmac and Balfour Beatty are thought to have been sounded out although it is not thought that either company would be prepared to put up a large sum of money.

The two contractors are in rival consortia bidding for the biggest single tunnelling contract - a £300m deal to dig 12 kilometres of tunnelling and a massive station box at Stratford, which will he one of the intermediate stations on the line. According to some reports,

the front-runner is a joint venture between Balfour Beatty and Amec, although other industry sources insist that the Tarmac consortium is still in the

Michael Harrison

Foreign & Colonial, the fund management group, has signed up its second former Conservative Cabinet minister as a nonexecutive director.

Sir Malcolm Rifkind, the ex-Foreign Secretary, has been appointed a part-time director of Foreign & Colonial's Emerging Markets Investment Trust. The move follows the appointment last year of Kennetb Clarke, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, as non-executive director of F&C's flagship investment vehicle, the Investment Trust.

A spokeswoman for F&C declined to give Sir Malcolm's salary for the part-time post, which began on 1 January. However, Mr Clarke is heing paid £18,000 for his job, which involves attending a hoard meeting for one day a month.

It is the third non-executive directorship Sir Malcolm has secured since losing his seat as MP for Edinhurgh Pentlands to Lahour at the last election. Last summer he was appointed

as non-executive director of Ramco Energy, the AIM-listed independent oil company based in Aherdeen. He is also nonexecutive international director of BHP Petroleum, the Aus-

tralian oil company.

George Nissen, chairman of F&C's Emerging Markets IT. said be was "delighted" at the move. "His hreadth of knowledge will make a valuable contribution to the company." Sir Malcolm is also the third

senior Tory figure to sign up a non-executive directorship with an F&C trust. Apart from Mr Clarke, F&C has appointed Baroness Hogg, former adviser 10 John Major, as chairman of its Smaller Companies Investment Trust. Of the former Cabinet min-

isters. Mr Clarke has been most successful in the hunt for outside jobs. On top of his £43,000 MP's salary, he has secured a £1200000 a year non-executive chairmanship of Unichem, along with jobs with BAT and F&C.

of trading, said it had been a retail sales reports. High street "splendid outcome", much inspending accounts for only a third of total consumer expenditure and excludes, as

The lending details high-

looking beyond the monthly

patterns at this time of year.

Typically, nearly a fifth of all the

cash to flow through high street

tills does so during December,

hut even within the month the

John Lewis, the department

store group, reported vesterday

that its sales during the four

weeks prior to Christmas were

8 per cent up on the previous

the week Christmas falls.

holidays.

lighted the importance of post-Christmas sale.

fluenced by the strength of husiness on the final four days before Christmas. Many of the well as car sales, spending on gloomier anecdotes emerged items like entertainment and before Christmas week itself... In addition, retail sales are heavily distorted by seasonal

James Barty, an economist at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, said: "You have to take figures for November, December and January as a whole". But he predicted: "Consumers have not gone back into their shells. They are still spending in a very robust way. timing depends on which day of

heen a cracking start to its

Brian O'Callaghan, director

Simon Briscoe at Nikko Europe, one of the firmest adherents to the view that interest rates have climbed high enough, agreed yesterday that: "Consumers' appetite to take on new year. It also said there had deht is uncomfortably strong."

Hong Kong sale to net Vodafone £100m

the sale of its stake in Hong Kong's fourth-largest mobile phone network, Pacific Link Communications.

The move follows a longawaited HK\$4.84bn (£380m) deal signed on New Year's Eve hetween Pacific Link and Hongkong Telecom, the higely profitable phone giant which is majority-owned by Cable & Wireless. Vodafone had a 35 per cent stake in Pacific Link, with the remainder owned by First Pacific, the conglomerate. The

hy 5 January. Vodafone said it would use the cash proceeds to reduce its borrowings, which were about £630m at the time of the group's last financial results. The operator's share price, which soared by 80 per cent last year, rose a further 6p to 445p on vesterday's news.

deal is expected to be completed

A spokesman said Vodafone had viewed Pacific Link as a non-core business, partly - Chris Godsmark because it used the US digital

Vodafone is to net £100m from mohile standard, unlike the GSM digital technology employed by the UK group and across Europe. Vodafone also pointed to fierce competition hetween Hong Kong's H

mobile networks. In recent months Vodafone has bolstered its international strategy, offering to take a controlling interest in Libertel. the Dutch phone group and indicating it would exercise an option to raise its shareholding in SFR, the French digital mobile operator.

On Monday the four UK mobile operators will announce subscriber numbers for the last quarter of 1997, with bumper growth expected in the run-up to Christmas.

Analysis expect Vodafone and One One to tie for first place, with increases of around 150,000 in their subscriber base Orange, the newest network. is likely to be in third piace, with Cellnet expected to show the smallest expansion.

Chris Godsmark

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semical Industries (It) rial chemicals n the coming year, is ch could raise (1.2b) sen reports on the of the chemical giant tructuring.

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JEREMY

WARNER CHECKS HIS PREDICTIONS FOR LAST YEAR AND LOOKS AHEAD -TO WHAT'S IN STORE

Warning: turbulent market conditions ahead

19/BUSINESS

It can be put off no longer. The reckoning has arrived -- the time to review my predictions for last year. This is usually a humbling experience and no more so than this time round. I got Wall Street and the London stock markets completely wrong last year. London stocks, I said, would go nowhere. In fact the FTSE 100 index rose 25 per cent, powered by financials and pharmaceuticals, and even the All Share finished the year a fifth higher. Worse still was my forecast for Wall Street, which I said would come seriously off the boil. The Dow finished the year more than 20 per cent up.

Fortunately, some of my other main forecasts were a little better. My prediction for the pound, which I said would remain strong because of rising interest rates, was closer the mark, and my reading of Japan was spot on. Tokyo, I said. would remain in the doldrums; Japanese stocks were still overvalued by international standards and there was no evidence of a revival in the Japanese economy.

I can also claim to have got the rest of the Far East partially correct, though for entirely the wrong reasons. I failed utterly to predict the economic crisis in the Pacific Rim economies - hardly alone in this -but I did forecast turmoil in the Far East, My belief was that this would be sparked not by the bursting of the region's investment bubble, but by the Hong Kong handover, which I thought would prompt an international crisis with knock on consequences for financial markets. In fact the handover could hardly have been smoother. All in all then. I probably shouldn't be awarding myself any more than about 4 out of 10 for crystal ball gazing some of my micro-predictions on companies were wrong too.

This was a year that contained some salutary lessons now just for me, but for all forecasters. Perhaps the most revealing was the way in which the bear case for equines was reinvented during the latter stages of the year. To the extent that Western markets did wobble and lose their self-confidence, this was not prompted by the usualand most predicted set of circumstances.

In recent times, bear markets have generally been caused by the resurgence of inflationary pressures, sharp increases in interest rates and a consequent reduction in liquidity as economies slow and recession begins to grip. Moreover, the collapse tends to start on Wall Street and then spread to the rest of the world.

What happened in October, when Wall Street lonked as if it was going to crash, was the very reverse. The crisis began not in the US but the Far East and then spread from these comparatively small economies to the world's largest stock markets. The fear that gripped markets was not that of

inflation leading to higher interest rates. but of deflation.

It was said that recession in the Far East would force the region to chase the only growth market left - the US - which would become flooded with cheap imports made cheaper still by competitive devaluation. This in turn might cause an investment famine in the US, consumer confidence would collapse, and it would be like the 1930s all over again.

So here was another curious about-turn in perceptions. The world was suffering, it began to be said, not from the traditional bugbear so much cited by politicians of under-investment, but from over-investment. Rapid growth in the Far East had led to uneconomic investment and a surplus in worldwide industrial capacity. Markets might therefore begin to hehave like the Nikkei since the collapse of the 1980s property and stock market bubble. Policymakers would find themselves trapped in a deflationary vortex.

For the time being, that fear seems to have receded, though there are still plenty of pundits around prepared to preach the theory. One such this week was George Soros, the international speculator and philanthropist who, as is his wont, proposed a number of largely unrealistic policy options to counter the supposed threat of world-

When markets are in such huovant mood, however, every cloud has its silver lining. Such is the unrelenting optimism of Wall Street and the American psyche that many in the US have already come to see the Asian crisis as positively a good thing, at least in terms of its effects on the US. Trouble in the Far East will put a muchneeded deflationary break on runaway US growth, dampen domestic wage pressure, and therefore reduce the need for any in-

terest rate hike this year, it is being said, With one leap we are thus back to the idea that bear markets are caused by inflationary pressures. If the effect of turmoil in the Far East is to keep these pressures in abeyance, then what's happened is not bad news for Wall Street at all. Rather, it might allow the longest running hull market in US history to continue for another few years yet.

Believers in the New Age. a new economic paradigm that will allow non-inflationary growth in the US to continue into the indefinite future, still outnumber those who find this view incredible. Indeed, the new religion seems to find more converts everyday. Even Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, has watered down his view of a year ago that Wall Street stock prices were suffering from irrational exuberance. Furthermore, the sheer size of corporate activity said to be in the pipeline of the Far East and Japan.

- takeovers, mergers, share buybacks and other capital repayments - both in the US and Europe, gives a powerful upward momentum to markets.

Wall Street thus becomes harder to read than ever. Is it deflation or inflation that will bring this bull run to an end? Or are the two set to cancel each other out, allowing stocks and bonds to carry on upwards. I said last year that Wall Street was horribly overvalued and riding for a fall and I've no reason to change that view. Neither the New Ageists nor the believers in Worldwide Deflation seem to me to have the answers. Markets depend crucially, however, not on what is happening but on what people think might happen. Wall Street over the next year will be ruled by whichever school of thought gets the upper hand.

One important pointer to the future is perhaps the fact that nearly all of this year's rise on Wall Street took place in the first half of the year. Despite its gyrations, the Dow has in effect been running on the spot since August, apparently unable to make up its mind which way to go. In a sense, then, the bull market has already ended, though it hasn't yet given way to a bear market. This seems to me a quite sound view of what we might expect from stocks this year. Be wary of Wall Street, don't expect miracles from London, and steer well clear

Researchers solve the mystery of seasonal share price surges

for bolt-in the first The tendency for share Management confirms that the mais l'unitere de la prices to rise in prices of UK shares usually rise in December, January and December and January April, and by more than would d pechany has long been a puzzle be expected given the moveand Pin the state to economists. If stock ments in the kind of economic markets are the efficient statistics such as output, prices and the money supply that norand decreased that they mally move the stock market. are supposed to be, with are supposed to be, wi The US stock market, too, has a tendency to rise in January. and of the make district traders able to respond This was certainly true for aming alloward has well instantly to new the FTSE 100 index this Dewho kitted Comming information, why should

they have such a strong

up with an answer to this ques-

tion that allows economists to

cling to their view that stock

market behaviour, as revealed

Information technology (II)

shares continued to sparitle

yesterday on their first day as

Despite the reduced trading

hours and subdued trading

have posted gains of between 10

part of the Stock Exchange's

new IT index.

mation that itself has a pro-

seasonal pattern, asks

Diane Coyle?

cember. It has climbed 304 points, or 6 per cent, in the Industrials index in the US had a weaker month, advancing by just over 1 per cent. Figures for the rest of 1997 also broadly confirm with the At last a researcher has come pattern. January saw a 4.8 per

cent rise, although this was outweighed by an 8.9 per cent surge in September on the back of increasing optimism Britain would enter the European single currency sooner rather than later, and a 6.6 per cent uplift in July. April saw a 2.9 per cent rise.

But author Richard Priestedition of the Economic Journal Richard Priestley from ley finds that the seasonality in the Norwegian School of share price returns is caused by

New index spurs IT shares to fresh highs

al investors attempt to adjust their weighting to the sector.

administers the Stock Ex-

change's indices, had originally

FISE International, which

the increased uncertainty about these statistics in the three

In December and January the extra uncertainty concerns the pattern of demand and production in the economy over Christmas and the new year sales period. Sales at this time can set the tone for the whole year and have upusually important implications for the level of business activity.

months in question.

He writes: "Announcements of the level of economic activvide important information regarding the performance of the economy and subsequent levels of activity in the coming year. This has general implications for the health of the economy and specifically for firms' cash flows."

Mr Priestley speculates that in April, unexpected tax changes could be the cause of the extra uncertainty.

Whatever the reason, the economics profession's "efficient markets hypothesis" appears safe. The higher the risk. the higher the return, just as the theory would predict.

World Cup boost for euro kick-off date

Optimism is growing that European monetary union will start on time a year from now, as Britain prepares for its first full week as president of the European Union.

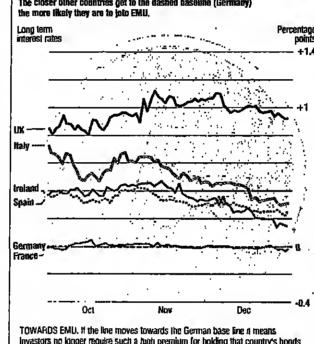
There are only five months to go until the crucial Council of Ministers meeting in May to decide which countries will take part in the launch of the single currency on January 1999.

Julian Jessop, an analyst at Nikko Europe, has raised his forecast of EMU starting on schedule to 85 per cent from 80 per cent in the light of the increasingly positive tone of the new year message of German politicians. But Mr Jessop said he still

retained a one-in-five chance of a delay or collapse of the whole programme as there was still the possibility of a hitch cropping up in the next 12 months. Alison Cottrell, of Paine

Webber, who rates the chances of a successful launch at 95 per cent, said it was too late, in both political and economic terms. for any of the leading European Union countries to throw a spanner in the works with just five months until the final

One boost for the project



Who will be in EMU? The financial markets' view

nvastors no longer require such a high premium for holding that country's bonds compared to German ones, because they are confident, the currency won't a single currency with Germany in 10 years' time

AWAY FROM EMU However, if they think the country won't be in EMU, that it will have higher inflation, and that there is a risk of a future devaluation against the mark, then they will demand an extra premium for holding that country's bonds, so the line will move away from the base.

came from a surprising source appointments to the European - the World Cup in France this summer will increase tax receipts for the French government, thereby helping the country's deficit.

Meanwhile, the Bundesbank president. Hans Tietmeyer, said yesterday that any

Central Bank musi guarantee monetary policy stability.

He said that any countries joining currency union must prove themselves ready and willing to live together in a Europe marked by long-term

Alliance & Leicester raises mortgage rate

More than half a million homebuyers received their first official piece of financial bad news in 1998 with the announcement that Alliance & Leicester is increasing its

mortgage rate. A&L, which has 550,000 home loan borrowers, is one of the last of the big mortgage providers to increase mortgage rates following the previous interest rate rise in November. The group, which con-

verted to a public company lust

year, is raising its variable mortgage rate by ft.25 percentage points to 8.7 per cent. in line with other major lenders, from Monday for existing borrowers and from today for new customers.

It said it had delayed its response to the last bank rate increase on November o to avoid burdening borrowers with an increase in their mortgage payments just before

The only other big mort-

gage lender not to have raised rates following the November rise is Bradford & Bingley

Building Society. Bradford & Bingley has in place a self-imposed ban on raising rates until the end of this month, when its home loan rates are thought bound

A&L spokesman Geoffrey Seymour said its 3.5 million savers would benefit from higher savings rates over the

Drop in US exports seen as reaction to Asian crisis

The pace at which US manufacturing industry is expanding slowed last month, sending what economists interpreted as the first signal of reduced demand in Asia. The National Association of Purchasing Managers said its index of activity fell to 52.5 from 54.4 in November, with output, orders and prices all lower. The export orders component slipped particularly sharply, from 54.2 to 50.6 - just over the dividing line of 50 between expansion and contraction. Norbert Ore, head of the NAPM's husiness survey, said: "Inflation is not rearing its head in any fashion."

Deeside gets new crusts

Deeside in North Wales is set to become one of the pizza-making centres of Europe following a deal by a leading producer to set up a new factory there. The move, by Paramount Foods, will initially bring 35 new jobs to Deeside, followed by a further 50 over the next two years. Paramount has agreed a 16year lease on a motbballed Heinz sauce manufacturing plant. The company said it would make 50 million pizza crusts a year at Deeside, adding to the 75 million crusts produced each year

Colloids wins extension

Chemicals group Allied Colloids Group gained more time to publish all information in defence to the hostile £1.07bn takeover bid made by the American group Hercules. The Takeover Panel said yesterday the timetable was being extended as the Office of Fair Trading was yet to decide whether the bid would be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC). The last day for publication of new information by Allied Colloids, usually the 39th day after the offer document is posted, was this Sunday. The Panel said the "day 39" would now be deemed to the second day after it was made known whether it should be referred to the MMC.

Talks on S Korea continue

US commercial banks met last night to continue talks on how to help South Korea emerge from its financial crisis, according to reports from New York. The meeting, which followed Monday's gathering of US bankers at the Federal Reserve Bank, reportedly dealt with ways to roll over Korean deht. Bankers agree on the pressing urgency to address Korea's problem of maturing short-term obligations, but the talks will revolve around methods of restructuring the country's public and pri-

On Monday JP Morgan proposed a mammoth debt offering and swap arrangement. Meanwhile, South Korea reported a record balance of trade surplus in December, as a weaker won made exports cheaper in global markets and led to a steep decline in imports.

Ocean buys Intexo

Logistics specialist Ocean Group has completed the acquisiuon of 67 per cent of the issued share capital of Van Ommeren Intexo Holding BV for a cash consideration of £18.9m. The name of the company will be changed to Intexo Holding BV.

activity, the index's largest at the end of 1998. But the Although the index includes constituents surged ahead. launch date was moved forward IT shares have risen sharply 88 stocks, the majority are small due to demand from investors. companies. Five large compasince the formation of the in-The index is currently a comnies - Sema, Misys, ČMG, Sage dex was first amounced at the ponent of the Support Services beginning of December. In the

Spot 0.3379 0.8533 70.342 20.853 70.342 20.853 30.253 30.253 30.253 30.253 30.253 30.253 30.253 40.253 40.253 40.253 40.27 20.808 40.27 20.808 40.27 20.808 40.27 20.808 40.27 20.858 40.255 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84.655 84

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sector, but is expected to bepast month, many FT shares - come a sector in its own right. TT consultancy firms were

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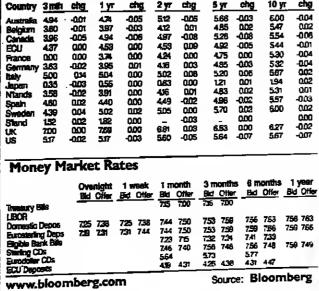
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and 20 per cent as institutionparticularly in demand, with Logica putting on 20p to 1.177.5p, CMG gaining 7.5p to 1,532.5 and Sema closing 5p higher at 1,487.5p. Also in demand were software developers Misys, up 12.5p to 1.842.5 and planned to introduce the index Micro Focus, up 12.5p to 2.405.

and Logica - account for over 40 per cent of the index's value. Peter Thal Larsen

Interest Rates 8.50% Discount 5.00% Beiglum 6.00% Discount Central 4.75% Switzerland Fed Funds 600% Spain 450% 10-d Repo Sweden 2.75% 3.30% 5.50% Discount 100% 3.50% Repo(Ave)



Liffe Fin	ancial	Future	5		Est floor	Open
Contract		Settlement	High	Low	volume	Interest
Long Git	Mar-98	121.26	721.31	12100	6301	175044
German Bund	Mar-98	10414	104.38	103.95	20907	222485
US Long Band	Mar-98	11953	_			
italian Bond	Mar-98	115.54	115.68	115.48	5266	14575
Japan Govi Bd	Mar-98	12985	12985	12380	174	
3 Mth Sterling	Mar-98	92.39	92.42	92.38	5720	140946
J	Jun-98	92.50	92.53	9249	2644	112826
3 Mth Euromerk	Mar 98	9619	96.22	9617	10349	363341
	Jun-98	9604	96.08	9600	8435	328475
3 Mith Eurokra	Mar-98	9464	9466	9464	2118	165406
	Jun-98	95.33	95.35	95.33	2394	128863
3 Mth Euroyen	Mar-98	9908				
3 Mth Euroswiss		9819	98.27	9817	7682	73647
	Jun-98	9801	9807	97.97	1075	30142
3 Mgh ECU	Mar-98	9553	9553	9551	76	9142
	Mar 98	95.52	95.52	95.52	S	B181
FTSE 100	Dec-98	5038.50				15923
Liffe FT	SE 100	Index (Option			
			•			
Sattlement Price	9. 2133:20		Jen	Feb		Lar Í
Series Call	Imp Vol. P	ut Imp Vol	Call Put	Call	Put C	aff Put
5100 317		76 25	369 223	16S	53 2	73 124
5150 287		6 25	338 243	128		fi 144
	25 2		306 263	100	90 2	09 166
5200 257 5250 227		38 24	275 284	69	115 17	77 187
					• (200m
Energy						
Brent Crude(S.	/bатеі) Ga	s oil(S/tonne	•		el) Product	
IPE Last* Chg	Vol IPE	Close Chg	Vol NYM	Last ^a Chy	Spot CII	NW Eur
Feb 1650	9655 Jan	150,00	3783 Jan	16.39	Gasoline S	5 174.00
Mer 1665	4097 Feb	16150	265 Feb	1749 .	Naphtha	183.00
Apr 1678	B3- Mar	25,300	410 Mar	1772	Gasol	15300
Apr Oil			Apr	1793	Fuel Oil (3	5%s) 78.00
Commo	dity In	dices	Goldn	an Sachs		st 5:30pm
Commis	Base datë	Last	Chg	%chg		%chgYTD
			-193	-110	215.26	1937
B ICA CO.	970=100	17357	-058	-0.26	23123	-214
AGE ILLUSTRICE	970= 100	226.29 61.94	-0.58 -0.97	-120 -154	85.86	2786
	983 = 100 977 = 100	15743	000	000	168.79	673
III III III III II II II II II II II II	977= 100 970 ÷ 100	17156	193	·11I	197.03	-1019
market.	970 = 100 973 = 100	39844	-090	-0.23	46354	1620
Proc Metals 1	31.3- W V	20044	-030	-020	70007	

LME (\$/tonne)	c	86h	Chg	3 #	rttnor	Chg	LINE stor	ts Chg
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Alumnum Alloy	1380	1385	-	1398	1400		42800	Ċ
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.ead Virted	546 5985	547	-	554	555	-	111625	
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Znc	10995	11005	-	5440 1121	5445 1122	••	12950 491600	0
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Agricult	ural			_			•==	5:30pm
Cocoa	Coffee		Bartey		Potatoe	•		tatoes
LIFFE C/tonna	TIFFE	S/Ionne	LIFFE	C/konne	LIFFE 2	-	_	\$/25k kg
Mar98 1082.00	Janes	174700	Jan98	74.50	Mar98	52.00	A Sec	883.50
May98 1100.00	Mar98	173200	Mar98	7750	Apr96	112.00	Apr98	
Jul 98 1119.00	May 98	171200	May98	78.50	May98	12200	Apres Janes	67050
Vol: 0	Vol:		Vol:	0	Vot:	ومعد	Vot	678.00 163259
White Sugar	Freight		Wheat	•	Com*	•		
LIFFE S/Ignne	UFFE :		LIFFE	S/Ionne			Soya B	
Mar96 308.60	Jan98	121000	Jan 98		CBOT Ce		CBOT S	/Sir behis
May98 312.10	Feb96	1225.00		80.50		26250	Јап99	
	Apr98	1275.00	Mar98	8350		26950	Mar98	32.40
Aug98 31440 Volt 0	Val:	12/500	May98 Vol:	85.50	J.498	274.25	May98	3610
TOL _	TIII.		wur,	. •	Vol; 1	06045	Yol:	207
Other So	ofts				_			
							ac	5:30pm
eb Live Cette		8/40k lb	65.47	Mar Wi	ita Maiza	(SAF)	S/100 mt	980.00
eb Por Bellies		5/40k lb	50.40	Jan Ru		(TÇM)	Y/ 5k ka	8170
	ce (CTN) !	√15k B)	83.70	Mer Co	tinn	HCTAIN	S/50k Ib	65.85
						(OIII)		900
eb Merk	(CSC)	8/50k Ib	14.33	Feb Cn	ide Palm	(KLC)	S/25 tn	2134.00
Mar Orange Juli Feb Milik Mar Oets Mar Flax	(CSC)	\$/50k lb \$/5k bah	14.33 149.75 347.50	Feb Cri Mar So	Jde Palm ya Oil	(KLC)	5/25 tri 5/60k lb 5/500kg	2124.00

20/UNIT TRUSTS

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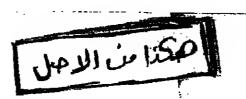
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How to spot bargain in ights offer

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New year forecasts can seriously damage your wealth



JONATHAN **DAVIS** COLUMN

The new year is the time when the stock market pundits dust down their crystal balls and try to forecast the future direction of the markets. As regular readers will know, I take a different tack. I prefer to take down a book or re-read the wisdom of the market's most successful practitioners and remind myself how worthless all such forecasts are.

As it happens, a new book which reinforces my prejudices in a telling way has just appeared. It provides a timely reminder of why forecasts of where the markets are heading are at best idle amusements - and at worst downright injurious to your health.

The Fortune Sellers, by William Sherden (published by John Wiley), is not just a book about forecasting the stock market - it looks at the dismal track record of economic forecasts, population projections and so on as well - hut it is about as effective a demolition joh on the value of market pundits as you could hope to find. He does a hrilliant joh at dehunking the track record of many of the best-known names in the husiness, including the American market stralegist Elaine Gazarelli, who has huilt a successful career out of heing the woman who foretold the market crash of 1987.

(Alas, according to Mr Shelden's evidence, she foretold a number of other market corrections which failed to hap-

pen, and her own stock market fund under performed the market when she tried to but her market timing model into

I liked this quote from John Bogle, the founder of the Vanguard fund management firm, on the folly of attempting to make money from timing the market: "In the 30 years in this husiness, I do not know anybody who has done it successfully and consistently, nor anybody who knows anybody who has done it successfully and consistently.

Indeed, my impression is that trying to do market timing is likely not only not to add value to your investment programme, but to be counterproductive."

A survey of 108 newsletters which claimed to he able to predict the future course of the market found in 1994 that only one had been able to beat the market in the previous five years. The number of mutual funds, meanwhile, which managed to beat the market averages over one, two, three, four and five years was almost exactly what you would have expected if the results had been entirely random.

For those who like corroboration nearer home, there is always the annual forecasting exercise carried out by the Financial Times. Each Christmas it asks a panel of six market experts to try to predict where the main markets and

economic indicators will be 12 months later. This year was a particularly salutary indication of how hazardous such an exercise can be.

With isolated exceptions, the six pundits - all highly respected figures in the City - did not even get the direction of the three main markets (New York, London and Tokyo) right, let alone the scale of the move.

With minor exceptions, they expected the London market to stand still or fall (it rose by 22 per cent); Wall Street to fall as well (it rose by a further 19 per cent); and for Japan to recover (instead it fell by 23 per cent).

With one exception in each case, they all expected emerging markets to rise (when, of course, they fell sharply), for the gold price to rise (it fell from \$370 an ounce to \$293 an ounce) and for the oil price to stay above \$20 a harrel (it fell 29 per cent to \$17 a barrel).

The experts did, however, have some modest success in forecasting what would happened to inflation, interest rates and the exchange rate (which are related in various ways, and in the end did not move very much at all).

What most studies of forecasting show, interestingly, is that the best track record in short-term predictions is achieved by simply assuming that next year's performance is the same as the previous year's. This so called "naïve forecast" is the longrun winner over time for a whole range of different variables, including the performance of the economy.

In the case of stock markets, it may be reasonable to adjust this by assuming that they will continue to grow year-on-year at their long-run rate of growth, which is 67 per cent in, real terms - while recognising that in the longer run, periods of outperformance must be followed by periods of underperformance.

The good news is that for most ordinary investors, the folly of the forecasts is not something that they need to spend too much time worrying about. They are far better advised to spend their time making sensible long-term investment decisions and looking for pockets of value where they can find them.

If you want general exposure to the higher long-run returns the stock market has to offer, then an index fund or a monthly savings scheme with one of the general diversified investment trusts (currently selling at a 15 per cent discount to asset value and a hetter bargain than an equivalent unit trust) is the obvious place to start.

For those who want higher risks and returns, then trying to pick the right stock or growth fund is the obvious way to go. For those who have a genuinely long-term view of investment, and a higher tolerance

for risk, then the current financial crisis in the Far East has undoubtedly made some of the emerging markets look more rather than less - attractive as an

You can, for example, buy Templeton Emerging Markets Investment Trust, a well-diversified fund following a wellestablished investment philosophy, at a significant discount for the first time in a long time and huy into a number of Asian markets which have fallen by 50 per cent to 80 per cent from their highs.

Those look like good value opportunities for the long term to me, just as gilts looked good value to me when I started writing about their merits two years ago. How good an investment anything will look in precisely a year's time is another

I have my guesses about where the markets will be in 12 months' time, hut the mass of scientific evidence has convinced me that they are hunches, rather than opinions of enduring value.

The good news is that of all the skills required to he a successful investor, the ability to know where the stock market indices are going to be a year from now is not one of them. The hest new year tip can offer this year is, therefore, to suggest you quietly put all those forecasts in the wastepaper basket and get on with more fruitful and profitable research.

THE STOCK MARKET

How to spot a bargain in a rights offer

Shareholders need to be careful when a company offers new shares at seemingly discounted prices. John Andrew explains why.

"The company is having a sale of its shares!" You can imagine the reaction of a new shareholder receiving a letter offering more shares in the company for less than the current market price. The company is wanting to raise more capital from existing shareholders. However, it does not mean that the offer is a hargain.

Called a "rights issue" in City parlance, it is an exclusive share offer to existing shareholders with new shares being offered in a fixed proportion to current holdings - eg one new share for each 10 currently held. However, why offer the shares at a discount to the cufrent market price?

Suppose a company with shares currently trading at £5 wanted to raise £10m. It could issue 2 million shares at £5; 4 milfion at £2.50 and so on, and fulfil its objective with each combination. It is unlikely that a company would wish to offer new shares at the current market price. This is because it would want a "safety net" against a

general decline in the market or against its own shares weakening after the announcement.

Traditionally, rights issues have been underwritten by a merchant bank. This means that by paying a fee, typically 2 per cent of the amount to be raised, the bankers undertake to purchase those shares not taken up by shareholders.

In the past, really big dis counts were uncommon. However, last month Bodycote, the metal treatment specialist, announced a one-for-four rights issue at a deeply discounted price of 500p, against a market price of 937p. The issue was not being underwritten. Possibly we shall see more deep discounting in the future.

However, whatever the level of discount, providing all other factors remain unaltered, the value of an investor's holding after the rights have been taken up will, theoretically, equal the value of the shares before the issue added to the cash paid to buy the new shares.

This is because, after the issue, the shares will settle at a level which is proportional to the amount at which the new shares were issued. Sounds complicated, but an example will make it clear.

Suppose an investor has 1,000 shares that before a rights issue trade at £5 each. If the



Buyers beware: A discount does not make a bargain in City parlance

company has a one-for-five rights issue at £4, 200 new shares may be purchased for £800. After taking up the rights the shareholder will have 1.200 shares. Theoretically, these will be worth £5,800 (£5,000, the pre-rights value, plus the £800 cost of the new issue). This means that, providing nothing else has altered, each share will now be worth £4.83.

If a shareholder is in theory no better off after a rights issue, it is tempting to ask why anyone bothers taking up rights. Of course, if a company puts money to good use, it will increase the value of its husiness and the value of its shares and dividends paid will eventually rise. "Investors should examine

why a company is raising new capital," says Gill Nott, chief executive of ProShare, the organ-

isation which promotes share ownership. "Some need it to finance sound business expansion, while others are simply paying off old dehts and could fail if the money is not forthcoming. Shareholders should therefore not assume that all rights issues

are worth taking up.

So how do you know if a rights issue is worthwhile? The company will advise shareholders on why it wants to raise capital. It will also send an allotment letter giving the terms of the offer. Every situation has to be assessed on its merits and your cashflow. Comment will appear in the financial press and you can also consult your stockbroker. If the issue is well-received, the rights will have a value. The

choices open to you are: · Take up all the rights.

Simply return the allotment letter, duly completed, with your cheque, by the deadline.

 Sell all the rights through a stockbroker. Remember, a commission will be charged. If your holding is small, this may not be economical.

 If you do nothing, or miss the deadline, the company will sell the rights to which you are entitled and send you the net proceeds. The advantage of this route is that your share of the selling costs will be minimal, but the sale may not be at the most favourable time.

 Take up part of the rights and use the proceeds of the remaining to fund the transaction. However, when a company

you invest in has a rights issue the most important thing to remember is that "discount" is not synonymous with "bargain".

6.69% (<u>7.0%</u> APR)

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22/PERSONAL FINANCE

It is remarkable to regard the optimism of City pundits for 1998. Given continuing turmoil in South-east Asia, and the fact we are three years into the domestic hull market, you would have thought a degree of caution in order. Yet a straw poll of the great and the good in the Square Mile showed all hut one forecasting higher markets at the year end, Actually, the only person to predict lower share prices does not work for a hig City house, so you could say the industry professionals are ununimous in believing the bull run has further to go. Plenty of industry professionals are unanimous in

I hope they are right. Not only will it be good for bonuses, but it should not do personal portfolios any harm. But the bull in reality this year is that price movements are more difficult to predict than usual.

Pressures arise from a number of different

the City areas and it is hard to imagine markets skating between the various hazards without being upset, at least in some measure.

The hig mistake by forecasters in 1997 was not predicting the continued bull run for US equities and the dollar. The fact that we in the UK outperformed America is less important in global investment terms. The US stock market accounts for very nearly half of world stock market capitalisation. And in America the 'Goldilocks'' scenario – an economy neither too hot nor too cold - proved to hold good. The porridge may be a different temperature by the end of this year, though.

There are plenty, like Professor Tim Congdon, who consider inflation the real enemy. Lahour costs are set to rise in the where successive devaluations will deliver place fast!

INTERNET INVESTOR

attempt to offer online dealing facilities for unit trusts and personal equity plans

(PEPs). Fidelity Investments' Fidelity

WebXpress website now offers the ability

to switch between unit trusts or PEP in-

vestments. Later this month investors will

he able to buy more units or top up their

PEP hy entering Switch or Delta debit card

The site also allows you to analyse your

holdings by creating portfolios to your own

specification. This includes the ability to

produce graphs showing assets by fund, by

asset class and by geographical or industry

breakdown. Other tools available include

details on to an online form.

BRIAN TORA



huge price advantages as the year unfolds. Asian problems will contribute to a slowing in the world economy, so deflution looks just as hig a problem for the future. The pundits must hope we can continue to weave our way between these two particular perils.

Markets believe deflation to be the most likely outcome, if bonds are anything to go by. The strength of fixed interest markets around the world was remarkable in 1997, with only the aftershock of the Asian crisis reminding Third World debt investors that risk carries a premium. Equities were remarkably composed. While the excesses of Asian countries were hardly likely to be reflected among US. Everyone wanting a job in America developed nations, the sharp falls in curcan probably have one, such is the rencies and share values served as a restrength of the employment market - but . minder that markets can move into competitive pressures seem certain to reverse very swiftly these days. Global emerge, particularly from the Far East money flows ensure corrections take

Fund managers pep up their websites

The new year has begun with a serious a currency conversion table, a glossary and tracker fund unit trust and PEP and

pages. These are updated on a daily basis

with current net asset values and market

news. More detailed fund performance

offered initially to existing Fidelity cus-

tomers. But, by the middle of the year, it

line as well, opening accounts and buying

and selling without the need for signatures.

marks a significant step forward in what

The introduction of Fidelity WebXpress

information is also available.

Perhaps we all have a vested interest in the main markets delivering reasonable returns, but if that were the case, Japan would not have been the dog it has been. Again, rather interestingly, City experts all expect a recovery in the fortunes of the Nikkei Dow. Even the outsider thought this market offered reasonable value, although he warned that bottom fishing in the Japanese sea was perilous.

Personally, I think 1998 will be a difficult year. The first conventional Labour Budget is unlikely to deliver cheer to investors, while signs of upward pressure on wages should mean no early easing of the interest rate policy adopted by the Bank of England. Institutional cash flows, and a belief that the UK offers a cheap way into Europe, may prevent our market from suffering a severe setback. but I would be surprised if we saw much in the way of overall profit.

But a stock market is a market of stocks, so there will be winners and losers as the year unfolds. Who would have guessed the best performing FTSE 100 company to he British Gas? Banks did well during 1997, even if HSBC lost most of its outperformance as Far Eastern pressures huilt. The coming year may not see such wild swings, hut I believe it will be a year when a defensive posture will prove sensible.

I hope 1998 is the year when smaller companies return to layour, although it is hard to see them bucking the trend of recent years. Concentrate instead on the well-managed international companies that will to be of interest to global investors. And spend as much time enjoying vourself as you can - just in case the Asian tiger turns nasty before the year ends.

Brian Toru is chairman of the Greig Middleton investment strategy committee

Merchant bank Flemings offers a range

of Luxemburg-based offshore funds and in-

vestors may deal online through the Flem-

ings Rapide dealing service, However, it does

- Robin Amlôt

BEST BORROWING RATES

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Northern Rock		3 99% to 1 2 00			
Bristol & West	0800 119955	5.89% to 1.7.01	.90%	7295	- ,
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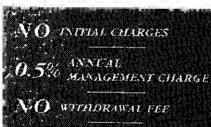
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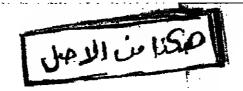
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The brand new property boom that's gone sky-high

Their attractions include exposed beams, thatched roofs, reclaimed barn boards and baked clay tiles. No double glazing, though, and living tends to be open plan, but there are the communal gardens and – unless there is a squabble over vacant possession - the transaction is usually chain-free. Rosalind Russell takes a peek at bird

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Houses for birds, it seems, are every hit as des res as our own. And their potential owners are no less picky than people when it comes to finding exactly the right style, position and facilities.

House-bunting swifts, says the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, fly past a likely nest site brushing the entrance with their wings. Any incumbent responds by screaming vigoronsly and grappling with its feet until the intruder is ejected. Tits will happily nest next to robins or wrens, but not next to another pair of tits.

Problems with the neighbours are not confined to costing £24.99, but there are homo sapiens. As a result, the nest boxes to suit almost number and varying design of bird houses to suit all tastes avian and humans - is remarkahle. Whether your home is a Victorian villa or a neriod thatched cottage, you'll find an annexe for your feathered lodgers that won't upset the planning officer.

The mail order company Presents Direct sells a bird house in kit form, consisting of real miniature bricks and roofing tiles made of baked clay, and with enough mortar to build it, for £24.95 (plus p&p). Just the job for a huilder twiddling his thumbs with nothing to do after the New Year when the weather is atrocious.

The Shaker Shop (there are two stores in London and a mail order service) offers folk art hird houses and feeders, made by hand from old materials, including barn boards and tin, collected from farms in Pennsylvania.

The paint finish is aged to give the houses character, although it's unlikely even the most difficult to please bird is going to give a boot. They are in limited editions and therefore not going cheap. The gazebo bird feeder is £149.95 and the turret bouse, with several front doors, is £149.95. A more modest little white house is £36.95 and there is a matching restaurant, for days when they just have to eat out, at £29,95.

The RSPB bas several pages of houses and feeders in its current catalogue. A plastic, thatch-look cottage hird feeder is the most popular, everybody, including bouse

Designed especially for them, and costing £15.99, the house martin nest has to be installed permanently under the eaves of a bouse (preferably painted white or cream, they are quite particular about

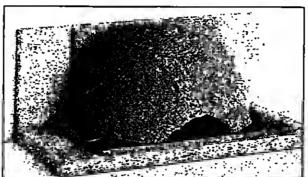


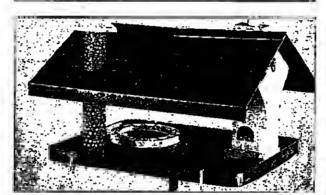
If you're planning on feathering your own nest this year, why not invest in a scaleddown second property...

> Main picture: from The Maritime Company, £14.95

Above right: House martin nest from the RSPB catalogue. £15.99

Below right: Bird lodge from the RSPB catalogue, £29.99





architectural finishes). The idea is to encourage other pairs to huild their own nearby, but house martins are as fassy about their wattle and daub as English Heritage. Any old mud will not do. And, as each nest needs a thousand beakfuls of the stuff, a ready supply must be within 200 metres

CJ Wildbird Foods near Shrewsbury sell a mud pack for martins, consisting of a green tray, a bottle of blue dye and 3kg of mud (£7.99). All yon have to do is keep it wet. The dye is added to the mud to make it easier to spot the new building site.

Forsham Cottage Arks in Ashford Kent make bird bouses to suit everything from two turtle doves to six geese a-laying. Some, including the Tenterden which has four floors, bousing 20 pairs of birds. come into the stately home class of property. Not for the suhurhan garden, they point out, possibly unnecessarily, as it costs £1,411, delivered but not erected.

Slightly cheaper is the Lamberburst, tbatcbed £987.60 in white, £897.60 in brown. These cotes are sent to a master thatcher to be thatched. Even an Oriental garden can be accommodated: the Willow, painted red, green or blue, has a pagoda-style roof and costs £728.90 including delivery (less if you collect it yourself).

For tits bringing up their families by the seaside, the red, blue and white painted beacon bouse from the Maritime Company is one of the most charming B&Bs. The solid wood, 12-inch high hird box, in the shape of a lighthouse costs £14.95, plus p&p.

For the RSPB gift brochure call 01283 506100 (for leaflets on different nest boxes, 01767 680551); Presents Direct, 0171-371 7017; Shaker 25 Harcourt Street, London W1H 1DT, 0171-724 7672, and at 322 Kings Road, SW3 5DU; CJ Wildbird Foods 01743 709545; Forsham Cottage Arks 01233 820229: Maritime Company 01993 770450.

THREE TO VIEW/UNDER £160,000



The White House in Alrewas, five miles from Lichfield in Staffordshire, is a Grade II thatched house with beamed ceilings and an inglenook fireplace. There is one bedroom on the ground floor and two more rooms on the first floor, although, says the agent, they have restricted headroom so would be more suitable as guest rooms, or study. There's an overgrown cottage garden and a detached garage. £120,000 through Bill Tandy (01543 419400).



Oak Cottage in West Wellow, Hampshire is a listed thatched cottage near the New Forest. Dating from the 18th century, it was extended and renovated in the 1980s, the 19ft sitting room has French doors to the terrace and a door to the dining room. There are two bedrooms, a bathroom with roll top bath and a double garage. The secluded 88ft rear garden includes a vegetable garden and shed. £155,000 through James Harris (01794 511911)



The Black Bull is currently a pub in Newchurch, overlooking Romney Marsh in Kent, but planning consent has been submitted for change of use to a house. It presently has bar space of 34ft by 26ft, plus a harrel store, a 15ft kitchen and five bedrooms. Old hlack metal ducks' nest grates, panelled doors and exposed floorboards remain. The quarter-acre gardens are partly walled. Offers of around £155,000 to Phillips & Stuhbs (01797 227338).

PENNY **JACKSON**

While you are making New Year resolutions, sorting out your accommodation needs over the coming 12 months makes eminent sense. Penny Jackson offers a few tips of her own.

Sensible advice for vendors: slow down, you move too fast

If neighbours' all-night parties over the holiday have proved the final push towards hanging about. To be somewhere new by this time next year, is as good a resolution as any. As more housing stock comes on to the market, huyers are no longer going to be rushed for fear of finding themselves without a home of their own when the music stops.

As is clear from the last quarter of the year prices, in London certainly, had slowed and over-valued houses were being reduced. All the more reason to choose a selling agent carefully. Those who come up with optimistically high figures should be asked how many houses or flats they have sold in the area at that price and to produce the evidence.

Pretend to be a buyer and find out whether the story is the same from the oth-

agents to view your home so you can make comparisons, not just on the matters of a move, then there is not much point in commission and marketing, but to see whether they have a feel for the strengths of the property. Remember, if they don't impress you, they are not likely to impress buyers either.

If you have confidence in your home and you want to save some 2 per cent of the sale price, why not try selling it privately. Estate agents will point out the pitfalls, such as you will not get as much since you may be ignorant of the demand, the problems with buyers reneging on agreements and so on.

But plenty of people have a go. Quite a number fall back on agents in desperation but those who have advertised effectively, weeded out the no-hopers, built up a good rapport with the buyer and seen the sale through smoothly wouldn't do it

put your home on the market, take a critical look at it and list the things that make it look weary and down at heel. Clean windows, a fresh coat of neutral coloured paint and a smartening up of any front garden (much neglected in agents' views) all help with first impressions. A small investment of time and money can pay much larger dividends.

This is a good time to take stock of your home loan, whether you are moving or staying put. Anyone sitting on a mortgage with a standard variable rate without penalties attached should look at the fixed rate market since there are still some excellent offers around - mainly because this market has not reacted to recent variable rate increases.

Ian Darby of John Charcol, the UK's largest mortgage broker, sees the supply of mortgage money continuing to outstrip er side of the fence. Invite a few local any other way. Once you have decided to demand in 1998, which is good for home-

owners. But beware of redemption penalties. If a discounted rate for two years is followed by three locked into a variable rate, you could end up regretting it. And anyone with spare cash should consider paying off all or part of a loan.

As we enter the most expensive quarter for fuel bills, this is the moment to track down the source of those draughts. If you have insulated your roof, lagged the pipes. draught-proofed the windows and doors and still the bills are buge it may be a simple matter of getting your boiler serviced and learning about the heating controls.

Apparently the extremes of temperature that many homes turch between are not only costly, but will not prevent hurst pipes if the heating happens to be off during an icy spell. And if anyone with an old house is thinking of having secondary glazing installed, the payback period on heat-

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years, according to English Heritage. Only 20 per cent of beat is lost through windows and sash windows can be effectively draught-proofed and still look good. Could this be the year not to move, but

to improve and stay put? Sioce clearly far fewer numbers of people have the appeute for unnecessary moves they must have been carving the space from somewhere. Roof space is an obvious winner, and a good loft conversion can double the liv-Specialist companies, well recom-

mended, are cheaper than employing your own architect, structural engineer and builder. Even if planning permission is not necessary, an application under building regulations must be lodged with the tocal authority. An unauthorised cowboy job is not only dangerous, but can cause enormous trouble when the house eventually ing bills could take anything from 20 to 60 comes to be sold.

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Churchill exhibition shows an artist in his true colours



More than 100 paintings by Sir Winston Churchill will go on show on Monday. The two-week exhibition at Sotheby's in London is intended to introduce a new generation to the wartime leader's work

The exhibition celebrates the 50th anniversary of his election to the Royal Academy as an Honorary Academician Extraordinary. Churchill took up painting in 1915 at the age of 40 after he was forced to resign as First Lord of the Admiralty at the height of the Dardanelles campaign in the First World War.

It became a passion which he pursued until his death in 1965. He once remarked: "If it weren't for the painting I couldn't live. I couldn't bear the strain of things."

His paintings were often influenced by artists Walter Sickert and Sir John Lavery, who were close friends.

In his essay "Painting as a Pastime", from which the exhibition takes its name, the former prime minister wrote: "Painting is a friend who makes no undue demands, excites no exhausting pursuits, keeps faithful pace even with feeble steps, and holds her canvas as a screen hetween us and the envious eyes of Time or the sultry advances of Decrepitude."

A 1927 landscape by Churchill which he gave to Lloyd George sold for £150,000 recently - nearly three times as much as was

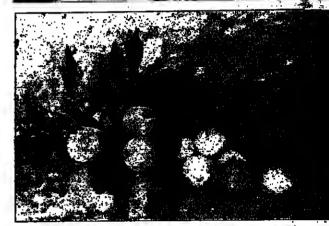
The works in the exhibition have been gathered from private collections around the country and from the National Trust. The exhibition will also feature paintings by Sickert and Lavery as well as a reconstruction of Churchill's studio.

David Lister









Lasting impressions: A bronze statue of Churchill, cast in 1969 by Oscar Nemon, and some of the former prime minister's paintings (clockwise from left) - Mrs Winston Churchill at the launch of HMS Indomitable, 1940 (1955); Marrakech (circa 1947); Cop d'Ail (1952); and Oranges and Lemons (1958). More than 100 of the wartime leader's works, and the Nemon statue, will be on show at Sotheby's from 5 to 17 January Main photograph: Nicola Kurtz

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TOMORROW IN THE



My life with John

Yoko speaks in Section Two

God: a CV

The Sunday Review examines the spiritual state of the nation

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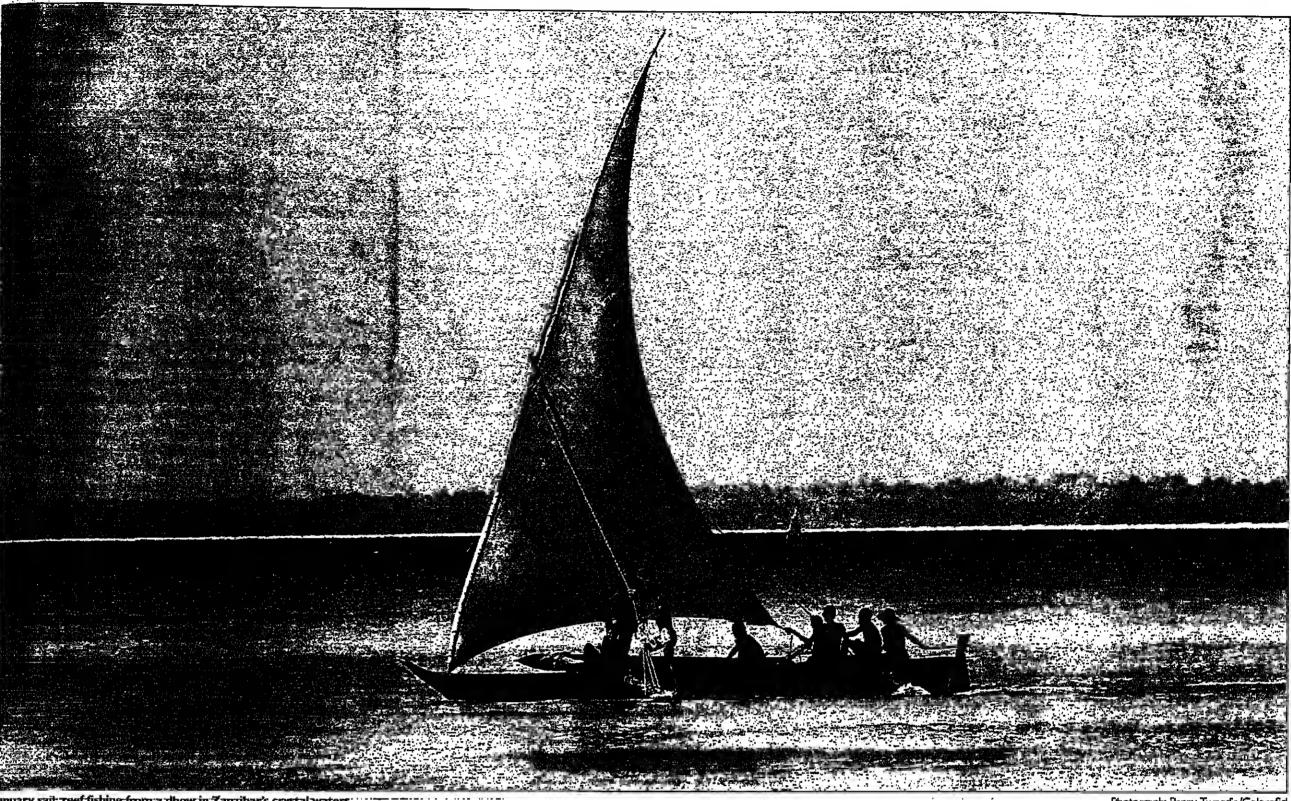
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Seville. 2

TIME OFF

TRAVEL, LEISURE & SPORT

Saturday 3 January 1998



The life of spice

Few names conjure up such romance and mystery as that of Zanzibar, off the east coast of Africa, But, as Richard Holledge discovered, much of the appeal lies in its picturesque shabbiness.

On the island of Chunguu, 20 minutes by motor boat from Zanzibar, three or four hours by dhow, a sign sweetly declaims the pleasures of the place, warns the visitor against destroying the coral reef and ends with this familiar admonition:

Take only pictures, Leave only footprints in the sand."

The message takes on a degree of urgency as Zanzibar transforms itself into yet another holiday spot hlessed with the essentials for the Western traveller: a beach lined with palm trees, warm sea, hot sun.

On Chunguu the giant tortoises ignore the camera-clicking holiday-makers. Mostly Italian - Zanzibar is virtually an Italian colony - the tourists have been whisked from their beach hotel to pose with the one-metre-high creatures, admire the delicate white of the frangipani contrasting vividly with the red of the aptly named flamboyant tree, and sip a Serengeti lager. They won't be eating the rather dry fish and rice in the austere little bar, because lunch back at the hotel will be an altogether smarter affair.

Above all, they have come to sunbathe on the scrap of white beach, splash around a little, snorkel a bit and then move on. As their boat putters back to the mainland the tide sweeps in, the beach is covered, the footprints are washed away.

What is it about Zanzibar? What makes it seem so exotic to people who haven't been there, and hardly know where it is? Why does it seem so much more mysterious and heguiling than the Seychelles or Mauritius?

Well, it could be the name: all those sensual zzzzs, the fact that it used to be a centre for the spice trade, making it redolent of merchant adventurers, swaggering traders, Omani pirates.

The reality is more mundane but every bit as enticing. The heart of the capital is Stone Town. There are no souks selling gewgaws to eager tourists, no magnificent buildings - even their Catholic cathedral is a dour affair - and the Portuguese fort, built in 1700, is rundown and shabby.

But there is a warren of scruffy streets. and tall buildings with massive, ornate doors and plaster falling off walls, poky shops, and kiosks selling cigarettes, fizzy drinks, washing-up powder, tins of meat. There is a constant clatter of furniture being made and "genuine" African artefacts being conjured up. There's a fish market, and

spectacular smells. You will get lost in the maze of streets even after a week of walking, and of avoiding the cyclists on their Chinese-issue bikes. And just as you reckon you know where you are, as you set off on an evening stroll, the lights go out. Apparently, a water shortage on the mainland, from where the power is pumped, means that electricity has to be rationed. So for two hours every evening, the sturdy beam of a hurricane lamp is all you have. Unless, of course, you are in one of the smarter hotels that have a generator.

Not that the small hotels are anything but charming. I stayed in the annexe to

the quite-famous Emerson House Hotel. Like many of the other older hotels the rooms have high ceilings, wooden panelling and burnished stairways.

From the vantage point of its rooftop verandah I could gaze over tin roofs decorated in various shades of rust red, and across to the port on one side, the Indian Ocean on the other.

The verandah became my headquarters. In the morning, breakfast appeared by magic: my very own concierge (I was the only person staying in the place) raced up the five flights to the balcony to lay out sweet cake, a triangle of puffy bread, jam. pineapple, melon and a little red skinned banana. In the evening I'd sit listening to the chorus of the muezzin, one after the other emicing the faithful to prayer. On one side, dhows nudged slowly along, their progress shaken by the wash from the the drofoil from mainland Dar es Salaam; on the other side, the red sun dipped into the sea. Then the warning sound of the generator, the lighting of the storm lamp and the already mysterious streets become suffused with only the ghostly grey light of the

And though the editor of the Lonely Planet suggests that the place be turned into a World Heritage site, presumably so that it can be pointed up and prettied up and made even more attractive to tourists, he misses the point. The appeal of the place is in its very scruffiness. There are a few smart hotels in Stone Town - the Aga Khan has just opened one - and there are beach resort hotels hurgeoning along the east coast catering mainly to the package holiday friends from Italy, but the joy of the place is to be found in the cafes where tiger prawns, calamari and king fish are staples. and along the front beside the rather grandly named - and extremely down-atheel - Floating Restaurant. Here a riot of stalls selling elongated carvings of African tribesmen, animals, drums, assegais - all those things you instantly regret buying the

moment you get home - vie with burning braziers of fish and kehahs.

There is a constant gentle barrage of "jambo". "How are you", "What do you want?" There is nothing of the sense of threat which is chronicled in the Lonely Planet, about the danger of mugging.

What you have to remember is that this is the Third World - maybe even poorer than that - and the tourist is subjected to a steady, though invariably polite, barrage

of requests for trade. Everyone is trying to sell you a trip here, a cruise there. Hardly any of them have the wherewithal to take you on any of these outings. They are merely freelance entrepreneurs after a small backhander for effecting the introduction to the travel agent, who may indeed own a jeep or be able to get you on to a boat. The nearest you get to a mugging is over the change. You hand over 1.000 shillings for something that costs 900, and you know that, after a lengthy rummage through pockets, drawers, the till, and a check with friends, there will be a regretful shrug. No change. So that's another 10p lost.

You get a real sense of the place in Jaws Corner, a crossroads in the middle of Stone Town where politicians, real and armehair, sit for hours, chat, talk and pontificate. On the walls are slogans which signal their permanent opposition to many things, but above all union with the mainland: "Open your eyes and look within. Are you satis-

fied with the life you are living? NO." For Nasser (whom I met on a beach on the west coast, hizarrely littered with the hulks of East German warships), most of the ills of the island were down to the depredations of the mainland. He railed at "f***ing politicians" and was desperate for independence (it was then that it dawned on me that Tanzania was an elision of Zanzihar and the former British colony Tanganyika). In fact, so zealous of their "independence" are the people of Zanzihar that you will need to show your passport Continued next page

ZOOMING TO ZANZIBAR

Getting there: Gulf Air flies from Heathrow to Zanzibar via Muscat or Abu Dhabi; in January, Flightbookers (0171-757) 3000) is offering a fare of £511 return. Or travel to Dar-Es-Salaam with Alliance Air (0181-944 5012) from Heathrow (£507) or British Airways (0345 222111) from Gatwick.

flights are with Precision Air (about £30 for the 20minute hop). The trip is cheaper by sea, by motorised dhow (very slow). ferry or hydrofoil. A third alternative is to find a cheap charter from Manchester or Gatwick to Mombasa, and connect there with a Kenya Airways flight (around £80 return); this may involve huying a Kenyan visa for

Red tape: British passport holders require visas, which must be obtained in advance from the Tanzanian High Commission, 43 Hertford Street, London W1Y 8DB (0171-499 8951). Send an SAE for the application form, complete and return with £38 and two photographs.

10 miles Tumbatu : From Dar. most frequent Changuu Island— Paje **⊙** Zanziba Channel Pungumel ZANZIBAR

TANZANIA Dar es Salaam INDIAN 200 miles OCEAN

INSIDE

CITY BREAKS Seville/2

MOTORING

Nissan's road-going rocket/II

SPORT

CUR FOOTBALL

Chelsea's last line of defence/22

CUP RUGBY

London Welsh back in big time/19

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Zanzibar: the life of spice

From previous page and yellow fever certificate at the airport. You are even charged \$4 to leave the island.

Fred, on the other hand, genial coowner of Tropical Tours and Safaris. with his strikingly beautiful sister Freda, simply shrugged off the talk of independence.

"We voted against it. What difference can it make, anyway? Do we want our own army?"

Fred is typical of the entrepreneurs who realise that somewhere between the bland gorgeousness of a beach resort hotel and the faintly irritating chorus of "jambo, jambo", there is an ever-growing trade in tourism.

After the revolution of 1964, which

saw the end of British rule, everyone was entitled to three acres of land. Fred has his bid in for his allocation; he plans to develop it into a house and then apply for a plot in the forest. Meanwhile he is organising spice tours - a quick whiz around the farms which produce the cloves on which so much of the economy is hased - taking people to the south coast to swim with the dolphins (they move so fast to get out of the way, that if you blink you miss them, but the lunch is good), and

Which is how I came to be in Paradise Beach Bungalows in Paje, a straggly little collection of thatched houses on the east coast. I could have taken a hus, a dala-dala, a vehicle with wooden fretwork sides. It would have cost next to nothing and taken three hours. Fred took half that time. And cost a lot, lot more.

generally seizing on any opportunity he can see to make a quick Tanzanian

The beach here virtually runs the length of the island. It is a beach out of your fantasies. Palm trees nod gently as the tide tears in and out, the women are np at dawn with the low tide as it breaks a quarter of a mile out, to plant seaweed. The mix of noise is enchanting: the roar of the waves, the clatter of the palms in the wind, the voices of the womeo chatting and giggling, their skirts boicked above their knees. Fishermen walk along the beach with their catch in a carrier bags, pausing to beat an octopus into tasty submission. The inevitable cyclist uses the beach as the main road - it is certainly much flatter and smoother than the bumpy, sandy lane inland.

The bungalows are simple. The lighting comes from the now familiar toria jamp; the little restaurant serves tender octopus, big, tasty prawns. All washed down with a hottle of Sprite. Nothing happens. Yours for \$16 a

It's Fred who fixes me up on a dhow cruise, a long, slow tack across to the islands off the town in a fahulously dilapidated boat, filled with irrelevant spars of wond, blessed with a spindly mast, a tattered sail and a steady leak. There's a crew of six who alternate hetween frantic activity to change the sail and catch the breeze and distinct torpor as we wander across the ocean: I'd still be there now if the skipper hadn't decided, as the monn came out over Zanzibar, to use the outboard motor and get us hack to port. Just in time for the lights to go out.

48 hours in the life of Seville

You need a break - and a short cut to the soul of a city. Each week, 'The Independent' offers a prescription for the perfect short break. This weekend, Seville, with Simon Calder.

Why go now?

Because Seville's seductively ruffled layers of history and culture are revealed most vividly when the winter "chill" (average temperature 14°C) freezes out most tourists. Because you need to size up the city in relative serenity before returning for six days of madness during the spring Feria. And because if there is a more handsome city in Europe, I have yet to find it.

Beam down

The only airline with direct scheduled flights from the UK to Seville is Iberia (0171-830 0011), with a daily non-stop from Heathrow for a lowest fare of £182.90 (including all taxes). The same airline flies from Manchester, with a quick connection in Barcelona.

It may well be cheaper to find a cheap flight to Madrid, eg from Luton on Debonair (0500 146200) or from various UK airports via Amsterdam on KLM (through Air Tickets Direct, 0990 320321) for around £150. In Madrid, you connect with the AVE high-speed train to Seville, taking two hours from the Spanish capital to Santa Justa station.

Get your bearings

From the airport, a taxi covering the six miles to the centre will cost around 1,000 ptas (about £8). The airport bus operates from 6am to 10pm, mostly every halfhour, though with a long gap for a siesta between 2pm and 5pm. The ride costs 750 ptas (£3). Stay on to the end, right outside the Alfonso XIII hotel.

Rail travellers have it easy: from Santa Justa station, you can walk west to the city proper in about 10 minutes.

The city proper is defined as the ragged diamond enclosed to the west by the Guadalquivir river, and to the east by a meandering ring road. Inside this square-ish mile is the greatest concentration of elegance anywhere in Spain. Across the river, to the north west, stands the debris from Expo 92; to the south west, the down-at-heel quarter of Triana.

The tourist office on Avenida de la Constitucion is the prettiest in Spain. It also rates among the most useless, in terms of providing such basic information as a map of the city and the opening hours . tle connects it with the real Seville. of that rather large building op the road, the Cathedral. But if you want to try your luck, the office opens daily, 9am-7pm, except Sundays (10am-4pm).

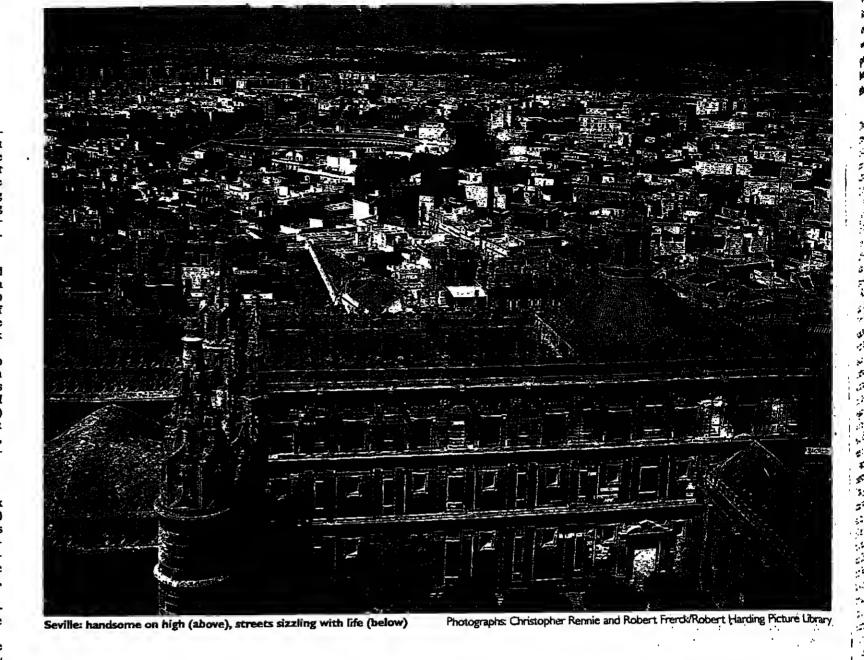
Watch out for ...

The habit of most maps to have the north point at the left, rather than the top.

as ruthlessly efficient as those anywhere sembles a forgotten circus from the 21st in the world, from Bogotá to Brazzaville.

To impress someone - even if only yourself - there is only one place in town: the extraordinarily civilised Casas de la Juderia (literally: houses of the Jewish quarter), huried in the Callejon de Dos Hermanos in the Santa Cruz district, 500 metres more or less due east of the Cathedral. Rooms are scattered around a large, airy courtyard in a part of town where even the screeching mopeds fall silent. A single costs £30, a double £50, with optional breakfast an additional £4.50 per person. Book in advance on 00 345 441 5150, and be prepared to get cross as you try to track it down.

Among the many options several degrees cheaper and less cheerful is the two-



star Hostal Alameda, on the Alameda de Hercules just north of the city centre.

I stayed at the extraordinary new Alcora, which cost £50 for a single for a night. This huys a spacious, split-level room with plenty of room to write these words - though rather too good a view of the biggest hypermarket in Christendom. What you gain in space, you lose in accessibility; an bourly minibus shut-

Take a ride

. Circular hus C2 runs anticlockwise right around this extraordinary city. Like all the public buses in Seville, it costs 120 ptas, or about half as much if you huy a wad of 10 tickets from a street-side machine. street life sizzles eveo in midwinter. It will take you through and around the century - full of futuristically obsolete cable cars and space rockets going nowhere.

Take a hike

The cathedral, being the third largest in the world - after St Peter's in Rome and St Paul's in London, is a morning's exercise in its own right. While you're waiting for it to open at 1 lam, lose yourself in the surrounding streets; chords of Cartagena and Havana keep resounding, When you want to return to the cathedral, it takes no time at all to locate its vast

Inside the south door, an elaborate tomb contains the remains of the Genoan who changed the world: Christopher Columbus, who used Seville as a base camp for his voyages to the New World. The bones of poor old Columbus did

Atlantic chart, noon today

Conden
S England
Wales
C England
N England
Scottand
N Ireland

almost as much travelling in death as in life, shuttling between the New and Old Worlds before finally and fittingly com-

Lunch on the run The best fast snack in town - chocolate

as the original Latin American city.

ing to rest in Seville, which fancies itself

y churos (spirals of deep-fried batter. ready for dunking in absurdly thick and sweet molten chocolate) - can be found at El Duque, directly opposite Marks & Spencer on Plaza de la Victoria. But it doesn't open at weekends. ::- -

On Saturdays, therefore, content yourself with grazing in the Barrio de Santa Cruz. east of the Cathedral, where

Cultural afternoon

Granada owes much of its magnificence to its mountainous location; Seville just subsides beside a slouchy old river. But it is stashed full of miraculously atmospheric patios, palaces and plazas. A lifetime would be a more realistic time-frame than an afternoon, but if you have to choose one sight then make it the Alcazar - the huge palace adjacent to the Cathedral. Seville specialises in scale,

Window shopping

It would be beingus to waste time on the ambience f4 for a beer and anibble. shopping, but if you want to see what's cool then walk aloog Calle Sierpes, keeping an eye open for some of the elegant, tiled murals.

An aperitif

Alfonso XIII may have suffered ill-luck commensurate with his suffix (a bomh at his wedding in 1906 killed 24 people; governments changed on average every 10 months during his reign), but sipping an iced sherry at the implausibly decorative hotel that bears his name is fortune indeed.

Next stop on the pre-dinner crawl could be El Rinconillo, bodged into an uncomfortable corner of Calle Gerona - all tiles, ancient wooden chests and ranks of dangling bams. But you pay for

On the Alameda de Hercules, Las Columnas does the same thing for half the price, self-service, and provides the chance to sit outside. Choose your dinner venue from one of the many options on this cheery street - but don't start until 10pm.

Sunday morning: go to church The Santa Maria monastery on Cartuja island was Columbus's spiritual home. It comprises a mystical series of interlocking courtyards and overlapping epochs: an original 12th-century church, of which dazzling fragments remain; a ceramics factory, during which it acquired the five-pack of cooling towers; and a repository for con-

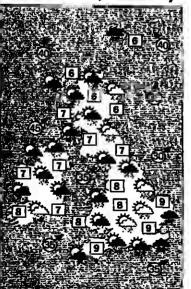
servationists, a role only recently acquired.

A walk in the park

One of Alfonso's few successes was the great Iberoamericana exposition of 1929, staged in the fahulous Maria Luisa park. It is dotted with absurdly caricatured pavilions, but the main glory is the Plaza de España - a monumental hemisphere, decorated to the last exquisite touch by the provinces of Spain.

WEATHER

The British Isles, noon today



General summary and outlook: II will be a blustery, showery day with strong winds everywhere and gales in many parts. In fact, parts of Northern Ireland and western Scotland will turn stormy for a while. Heavy overnight rain will clear south-east England then all parts will have bright spells and occasional showers. They will be most frequent and heaviest in the north and west, with thunder and hall possible, in the east there will be more sunshine between the showers but even there some of the showers will be heavy. More rain will move quickly north-eastwards across Scotland on Sunday. The wind will ease for a while but strengthen again as the rain passes through, with gales in exposed western areas. Monday will see a mixture of sunny spells and showers, with the showers turning increasingly wintry, and snow will accumulate over the higher ground. On Tuesday more rain will spread in from the south, preceded by snow over the mountains. Blustery showers will fel-

	local time c,cloudy, t,lair; (g,to)	low, with strong winds tre,hazy; m,mist; main; sn,snow; s,sunn	again. ; iv.h under
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High tides Good Good Good Good Good Good Good

Greater Manchester, A56. Old Trafford. Roadworks. Until 19th January 1998. Pastel, M5 J18-19. Contration in oper-ation across the Avormouth Bridge with a 50mph speed limit. Regular rush-hour detays. Lintil 1st January 1999. Good Good Good Good Good Good Good 4:39 7.2 17:1n 7.2 1-59 9.1 14:21 9.4 Liverpoo

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AA Roadwatch

works and contraflow.

London, A1 between Watford Way, Mill Hill Curous and Frieways Comer. Car-nageway reduced to two lanes for long term readworks. Until 31st May 1998.

London, A3211 Blackings Underpass. Contrallow Until April 15

Bucks, M40 J1a-3, Long-term road-

Kent, M2 J5-J7 Bridge maintenance and

Pestotonia: Onlin Mad of and an oper-ation across the Avoratiouth Bridge with a 50mph speed limit. Regular rush-hour delays. Until 1st January 1999

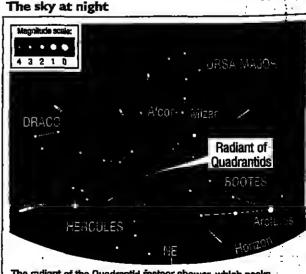
West Yorksture, M1 J43-J42 Stourton to Lethouse (M52). A contraflow and a 50mph speed limit are in place. Until 13th

Somerset, M5 J22-23 Highbridge to Bridgewater. Major roadworks due to bridge repairs. A 3 mule contraflow is in place. Until 31st March 1998.

West Yorkshire, M1 J43-J42 Stourton to Lotthouse (M62). Contraflow and speed

limit are in place. (Until Jan 21 1998)

Sun and moon



The radiant of the Quadrantid meteor shower, which peaks tonight, lies in Bootes, near to Hercules, Draco and the fall of the Great Bear. This chart is for 1.00 am.

Less than a month after the Geminids, another of the three best meteor showers of the year is underway, due to peak tonight: Astronomers have a perverse way of clinging on to outdated terminology, and this shower retains its old name - the Quadrantids derived from the former constellation Quadrans Muralis (the "Mural Quadrant" - an obsolete instrument for measuring the positions of stars and planets), which was introduced into star charts in 1795 and abolished when the International Astronomical Union adopted the present 88 constellations in 1930. The radiant of this shower actually lies in Boötes. Though the Quadrantid radiant is circumpolar (ie never sets) for UK observers, it only gains respectable height above the horizon in the early hours of the morning at present. Nevertheless, with such a prolific shower, there is a chance of seeing meteors emanating roughly from a northerly direction at any time tonight and over the next two or three days.

Over the last 12 mon

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Stairways to heaven

A new television series investigates the inspirational nature of rock climbing on abscure and difficult mountains around the world. But, writes Charles Arthur, commercial sure from trekkers and even efcopter-carried picknickers are wrecking the romance of these wildernesses.

andstone spires of the Wadi Rum, in the Jordanian deset; have long tascinated the Bedouin tribes who eithere. In past centuries, they climbed them in bare frying to catch the ibex mountain goats which loped stootedly about the craggy rocks soaring up to 2.000ft above the ochre sands.

Mowadays, the Bedouins' reason for loping up the My rock is a more commercial one: working as guides the growing number of foreign rock climbers who now visit the area, in search of adventure. It's a cut above the standard package holiday spent by the poolde or gazing at inhospitable territory from behind ne windows of an air-conditioned bus.

Rock climbing is a comparatively new activity in Jordan the first European climbers there came in 1952, hing Ward, a keen climber from the village of Greenfacar Oldham, was first inspired to look more closely af the possibilities of the rock formations by their the backdrop to David Lean's film Lawrence of in the manner of the true obsessive, Ward scored Lawrence's book The Seven Pillars of Wisdom for any mention of rock suitable for climbing. He then in asking the Jordanian government for permission to travel there and climb. In 1984 his persistence paid off, when be was invited to visit. Since then he's beerra regular.

and for anyone who thought that such "adventure ion an as rock climbing would only be the preserve of the young, fit and strong, The Face, a six-part TV series which started last night on BBC2, shows Ward and his partner Di Taylor - "both the wrong side of 50" as the producer Richard Else puts it - attempting a dangerous climb on the uncertain rock of the Wadi Rum. They survive, despite a moment 800ft up when Ward, leading, finds himself stuck on a blank face with no obvious way up or down. The relief and inner satisfaction they felt on reaching the top, just as the evening sunset turned the desert floor into a blue carpet, isn't the sort of thing you can capture on

His aim in making the series was partly to show bow climbing is not just the preserve of suicidal supermenschen who are born without a fearful bone in their body. That's not to say, though, that they haven't lived a little. Besides Ward and Taylor, the series' participants include Andy Parkin, who ruptured his spleen and dislodged his heart in a near-fatal climbing accident in the 1980s, and Joe Simpson, whose book Touching The Void is a vivid, terrifying account of how he crawled off a South American mountain alone, after being lost and left for dead with a smashed ankle.

Non-climbers who have seen The Face say it opens their eyes - "though I don't think it sends them down to their local climbing shop. But at the end they re- £18.99 from BBC Books.

alise it's not about being mad, or getting to the sum-mit, or getting killed. They realise it's inspirational. They feel it's a real adventure."

But Else also wanted to show off the idea of climbing's world spread. These days it truly is a recreation you can pursue anywhere there's vertical rock: have rope, will travel. The locations for the climbs range from Canada's frozen northwest to Vietnam, to Scotland, South Africa and, of course, Jordan.

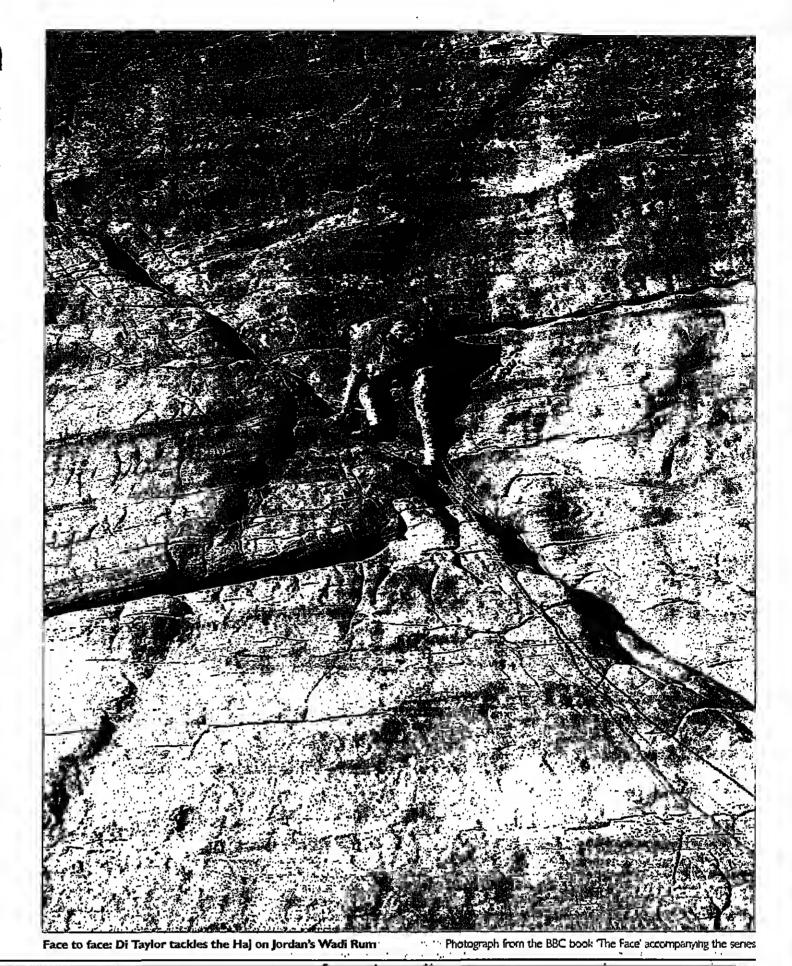
You might notice a certain mountain area missing from the list of locations. "We purposely didn't go to the Himalayas," says Else. "Enormous damage is being done there. The budget could have covered it, and actually it was more expensive to go to Canada. But it was a deliberate choice." The "damage" Else and many others are seeing in the Himalayas is wrought not only by climbers, but also by commercial trekking expeditions that treat the mountains and surrounding environment essentially as a disposable resource which can be abused at will. Rubbish and buman detritus is piling up. Nor is that limited to the Himalayas. On reaching the top of one remote summit in Jordan, Ward and Taylor found graffiti carved and painted onto the rocks, and litter thrown down cracks in the rock. The rubbish had come from visiting picknickers, not climbers, who had arrived by belicopter. "Is nowhere sacred?" asked Ward, rbetorically.

These days, the answer tends to be no, not if there's money to be made taking people there. It is increasingly difficult to find real wilderness, though climbers tend to discover it more easily. "The higher you get, the less you see," says Else, "But in Jordan, for example, there's an awful Jordanian flag painted on the summit of the Wadi Rum. Then there are the names and graffiti carved into the rock - English names, Scottish names." Other disfigurements include arrows painted onto the rocks by guides from nearby cities, rather than the local Bedouin, to show tourists the way up the traditional climbs.

Ward and Else are wounded by such indifference to the environment - so much so that they have petitioned the King of Jordan to make the area of the Wadi Rum into a national park whose wildlife, vegetation and local people would be protected. "People come up from big cities like Aqaba and Amman and drive all over the desert, destroying the ecologically fragile surface and vegetation," Ward says, "Quite recently trees have been chopped down to make barbecues and

The desert ecology can't survive such an assault. Else comments: "It's important that the Bedouin should have their own economy, but it should be handled in a way that leaves the environment undamaged." The Bedouin at least trust Ward to put their case: they have nominated him as their spokesman. But does be think the park will be created? "Some people in the country have suddenly realised that Wadi Rum is a big money-earner, so it's difficult to say. At the moment, it's in the lap of the gods."

The Face" is on BBC2 on Friday evenings at 7.30pm. "The Face: Six Great Climbing Advenures", a book to accompany the series, goes on sale from Thursday, priced



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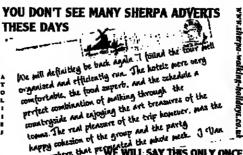
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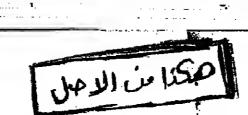
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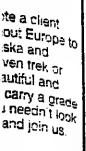












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SIMON CALDER

Tony, Cherie, the three kids and

the mother-in-law spent £16,000

flying Pearl Class to the Seychelles. But New Brits buy

- their winter sun much more

wisely than the Blair family.

Pearl Class? Pah. While the Prime Minis-

ter insists on travelling on holiday in the

rarefied élitism of Air Seychelles' husiness cabin, his people are perfectly content with Britain's charter airlines. I shall avoid any allusion to pearls preceding swine, too, since standards on package holiday flights are excellent - everyone gets a good deal. The only differential among us New Brits returning from New Year in The Gambia was how painfully slowly our luggage would appear. My suitcase finally crawled along the conveyor at Gatwick in the early hours of vesterday morning. But none of us really minded the usual old baggage of a delayed charter flight and surreal announcements about "operational difficulties", because we knew we were enjoying the extraordi-

- Look at the picture of the Seychelles on

the right. The Gamhia in January is like

winter" in West Africa's smallest state wafts

over you so sensuously that you feel barely tickled by a deliciously warm, dry 25C

(compare that with the sweaty Seychelles, now in the middle of the rainy season).

Perhaps because of its greater appeal,

the Gamhian beach is considerably more crowded, with bathers greeted by a genial jostle of bantering locals - for whom we represent a significant marketing opportunity. After a day or two they get to know you and your babits (a freshly squeezed orange juice now, a fistful of straight-fromthe-tree bananas later) and drift off to tackle

the fresh consignment of tourists from Copenhagen, still jet-lagged after the long

haul from the near-Arctic to the Tropics.

idays, but you can bet a papaya to a peanut

that it was a dorn sight more than the £425

quoted in the First Choice brochure for an

eight-night holiday, with flights, bed, break-

fast and a couple of parties - Christmas and

New Year - thrown in. Most New Brits paid

rather less than that; my travel agent offered me a 10 per cent discount, which even with

a questionably priced and compulsory in-

surance deal attached brought the cost down

to the £400 mark. And, inevitably, the chap

sitting next to me on the flight out had held

out until the last minute and paid 50 quid

less. Jolly good luck to him, too, since late-

bookers comprise an essential component

of an industry that seeks to maximise val-

A hit like the government, then. Next

year's winter sun brochures are already on

the shelves. With a hit of careful planning

the Blair clan, plus the entire cabinet (and

assorted wayward offspring in need of gen-

tle rehabilitation), can spend a Christmas

vacation in the Tropics and still have

change out of £16,000. Diving for pearls or

jiving for joy - Club Tropicana has it all.

GREEN CHANNEL

Having eaten too much, drunk too

the festive season, what most of us

much, and become a lounge lizard over

need is a long country walk. The prob-

the English - tend to live in towns. For-

lem is, the British - and in particular

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people in England; a dozen community

forests now cover an area more than 12

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create opportunities for millions of peo-

ple to enjoy wooded countryside around

towns and cities. For those condemned

times that of the Isle of Wight.

ue by making the most of resources.

It would never do, of course, to ask what the Scandinavians paid for their package hol-

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> nary hargain that is the British winter sun that, only without the cloudy hits. "Mid-

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to urban life, a walk in the woods need not entail a Brysonesque expedition.

Badala Park Hotel, planted a respectful dis-

tance from its four-star brethren on the

beach. The accommodation was winning-

ly wonky in the manner of many student flats

craftsmen that didn't quite agree with each

other about the best way to stop the bath-

room door handle falling off with every

clasp. Only the churlish would complain.

though, because like most things in The

Gambia the place muddles along in an of-

the same fabric is used for bedroom curtains.

tablecloths and, honestly, bedsheets. While

you admire such Fawlty-esque touches, re-

member that you are paying just £50 a night

for pride of place in the January sun. In-

cluded in this figure is 5,000 miles of air trav-

el, enlivened by very decent meals (possibly

up to Pearl Class standards, Tony) and in-

flight entertainment. Transfers to and from

the airport are covered, together with the

services of a resilient rep who doesn't flinch

when the thousandth new arrival asks about

malaria while munching through mince pies

and sherry at the welcome meeting.

Improvisational verve means that exactly

ten distracted but always jolly manner.

doors that didn't quite agree with frames,

Combining woods, farmland, villages, leisure enterprises, nature areas and public open space, the forests serve as "green lungs" for urban areas as well as much-appreciated bolt-holes for stressed-out city folk. With many miles of new or restored pathways and cycleways within the forests, there is also plenty of opportunity to get hack

to nature and get rid of Christmas flab. Those who fancy being active in a different way can get involved in treeplanting schemes. Watling Chase community forest, in the London borough of Barnet, has recently planted 6,000

new trees with the help local volunteers

and around 500 schoolchildren. Such greenery obviously provides valuable habitats for local wildlife. It's not exactly a safari, but Andrew Patterson, project director at Watling Chase, points out that increasing native trees within their forest is attracting crested newts, skylarks and stag beetles - all species that have recently been showing a worrying decline.

For information about a community forest near vou, coroaci vour local iourist

Sue Wheat



Each time I go abroad to Nepal. Vietnam, India, even Thailand or Colombia, I get sick. Diarrhoea, heat stroke and general malaise strike ruthlessly, despite the care I take over water, food, sleep and sun. On one occasion I ended up in an Indian hospital, on an intravenous drip, for three

It is an account by Miranda Haines, one editor of The Traveller's

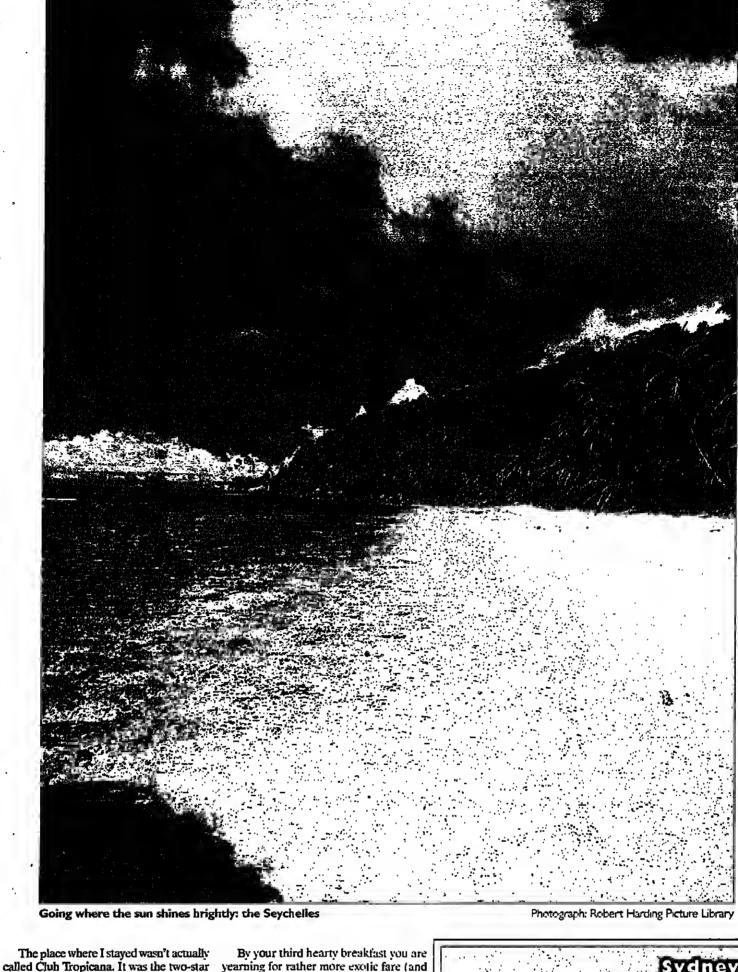
Healthbook, which is published this week by the travellers' club Wexas. price £9.99.

The other editor, Sarah Thorowgood, tells of sunburn after an overnight drive to the Algarve: "I promptly fell asleep on the then already warm sand until about four in the afternoon ... Quite apart from feeling that I could probably radiate enough heat for an entire Mediterranean holiday season, it became quite exceptionally difficult and

painful to sit down. Then the hlisters came, followed by great lumps of skin that fell off my back for the next two

Fortunately, the book contains remedies for these and many other

Wexas is at http://www.fco.gov.uk/ You can access the latest Foreign Office advice to a range of countries on http://www.fco.gov.uk/



yearning for rather more exotic fare (and you suddenly notice, with a wince, that that fabric lines the breadbasket, too). Real African life is a 12 pence communal taxi ride away in Serekunda, Gambia's largest town, where the heat rises and the hustle falls. Wintertime, and the living is easy. Your £400 holiday even includes a £20 donation to that nice Gordon Brown in the form of

Air Passenger Duty.

Sterling is so strong, and Britain's travel industry so efficient, that even the Chancellor's recent doubling of the UK's exit tax has failed to halt our winter migration. The really clever folk, though, are hovering like the vultures that circled above the cliffs on New Year's Day; the bargains begin this week, and reward anyone willing and able to travel before half-term in February. You can find some ideas in today's Independent Saturday Magazine, or just enter the price war fray now raging in the High Street. Late vesterday afternoon Britain's biggest travel agency Lunn Poly (t/99/18111111 offered mc a week on Mexico's Pacific Coast, departing 13 January, for £380. Winter is such a pearl of a buyer's market that the world truly is your. er, oyster.

Sydney Bangkok Singapore

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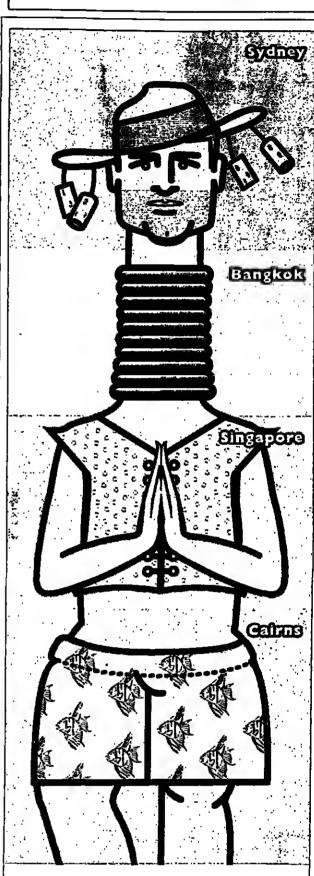


LOW ROAD

Since the handover of Hong Kong last June, airlines flying between the UK and its former colony have found it difficult to fill seats. Now British Airways is trying to shift some capacity by offering an Air Miles bargain. In-stead of 9,900 miles, in Fehruary and March it will "cost" only 2,900 miles to travel London-Hong Kong and back. Bearing in mind that the lowest easily available air fare costs about £400, this values each Air Mile at around 14 pence. Call 0990 511 806 for more details.

HIGH ROAD

You can also redeem Air Miles for Club, First and Concorde travel - for double, triple and quadruple miles respectively. The Concorde flight to New York "costs" 27,200 miles return - valuing each Air Mile at around 21 pence, if you calculate from the normal return fare of



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Park City, above and right, is a town under siege by movie people

Photographs: Shishoot-Offshoot

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SKI TIP

Change the radius of your turns by counding out loud as you turn. For long turns on open slopes, count to 10. To make shorter turns on steeper slopes, count ONE, ONE, ONE, in time with each turn.



A paradise of premières, powder and poseurs

spend part of your skiing holiday ogling Hollywood stars and seeing the latest films?

Tamsin Murray-Leach glides into the winter wonderland that is Park

For two weeks each January, a strange tribe descends on this peaceful ski town. Skidding and shivering down pretty, snowpacked streets in the de rigueur black designer uniform of New York and Hollywood, surrounded by seven of the best ski mountains in the US, visitors to Robert Redford's Sundance Film Festival eschew the slopes in favour of days and nights in darkened rooms; Park City during Sundance must be the only ski town in the world where queues outside the cinemas are greater than those for the chairlifts.

Which is what makes late January the perfect time to ski or snowboard in Utah, especially for those who'd like to add a bit of spice to their skiing holidays. Instead of. say, rounding off the day with an outdoor Jacuzzi and a hearty meal, a trip to the Sundance Festival means rounding it off with an outdoor Jacuzzi, a hearty meal and one of the première independent movies yet to hit the big screen. From 15 to 25 January 1998, the 14th annual Sundance Festival will screen 67 shorts and 103 feature films, 61 of which will be world premières.

And going to Sundance is also the perfect ploy to get Non-Skiing Partner to agree to a ski trip. Just picture the proposal, usually so fraught with potential confrontation and failure:

"But darling, we're not exactly going skiing. We're attending one of the major motion picture festivals in the world,"

Yes, you probably will get a glimpse of Robert Redford/ Cameron Diaz."

Pause. Smile. Flurry of pretrip shopping for warm, yet sexy, evening wear.

These days of movie mayhem are not for the fainthearted, however. Since Robert Redford founded the festival 14 years ago, with the aim of developing independent voices and visions in the arts". it has grown to become a focal point of the American film industry, attracting

(12,000 is the official figure). Park City passes saturation point; it is a town held under siege by movie people. Restaurant booths are requisitioned by equipmenttouting film crews seeking interviews with other film crews: the library and conference centres are converted into cinemas; and larger hotel lobhies and function rooms are transformed by nightly parties into meetingplaces for Those Who Are and Those Who Would Be Famous.

Yet none of this need prevent you having ski holiday of your dreams, providing you have a good sense of humour and like a few challenges. Sure, condos and hotels are booked months, if not years, in advance; parking is a joke; and getting a table in a good restaurant becomes a tactical exercise. But don't you see - it's all part of the game. Rule number one: where there are crowds, there are cancellations. And movie people like to stick together, so Park City is full of tiny inns and glorified B&Bs with

hostel usually has beds available on the night, where one can observe the least likely hostellers slinking into the dorms at all hours, stuffing evening gowns into lockers as they whisper loudly about the successful reception of their latest short, and who saw whom at so-and-so's party. Certainly every good restaurant will be

packed. Even the fast food pitstops out on the highway are notoriously busy, offering comfort food to agents and buyers who would rather not deal with another twohour schmoozefest, thank you very much. Yet it is honestly not that hard to get into restaurants such as Robert Redford's Zoom, which does good New American for a surprisingly reasonable price. Book in advance and simply be prepared to beg and wheedle, then beg some more. By all means use that English accent to your advantage, because even a small suspicion that you could possibly be a great British director will get you a table, albeit at an odd hour and perhaps somewhere at the back of the restaurant. One of the many nice things about Park City during Sundance is that most people are terribly polite to strangers. just in case they May Be Someone.

Even getting into a movie is not particularly tough. It's true that pre-festival packages are sold out months in advance, but you're going to be skiing, you won't have time for 15 screenings, two panel discussions, movie breakfasts and access to all parties (gatecrashing these is more fun, It certainly makes a pleasant change from anyway). Individual tickets for screenings the usual PG drivel on offer in ski resorts. are not released until five days before the

What's the answer, if you want to the odd unrented room left over from a of powder, cheaper lift tickets and a strict group booking. Even the Château Après no-snowboarders policy. This ruling is upbeld in old-school Deer Valley, just up the road from Park City, while a few miles in the opposite direction at The Canyons, a newly restructured resort, they attempt to keep poor, discriminated-against snowboarders happy with a machine-groomed half-pipe and a variety of obstacles to hop over and leap off.

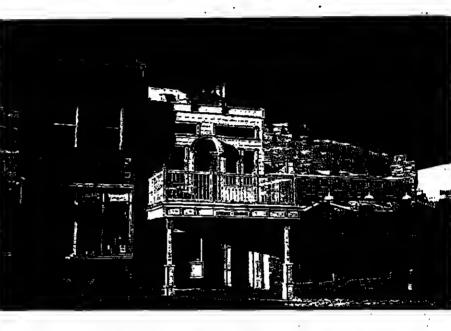
Then, of course, there's the snow itself. Car licence plates in these parts proudly proclaim: "Ski Utah - The Greatest Snow on Earth!" This is not a shallow boast. Everything you hear about the legendary Utah powder is true. It is dry and light as a feather. Slicing through a Utah powder field really is like floating on air -a cliche, but no other comparison will do. Even the intermediate skier will find Utah powder manageable, while for experts and snowboarders it is practically nirvana, a legal high inexplicable to the uninitiated, a truly spirit-soaring experience. Partake in Sundance by all means; watch some great films, soak up the glamour, chuckle at the spectacle. Just don't forget the reason you came: the mountains here are better than anything conjured up on the silver screen.

How to get to Sundance, and where

to stay when you are there Tamsin Murray-Leach flew to New York on British Airways for £225 return, and bought her round trip ticket from New York to Salt Lake City on American Airlines for \$364 (£220). She stayed at Patricia's Country Manor Bed and Breakfast in the neighbouring village of Kamas for \$85 (£51)

SONE BEY

THIS ON!



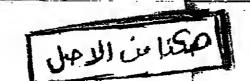
filmmakers, actors, agents, buyers and festival, when it is wise to try to book a night (001 800 658 0643); in the Château mières. Once at Sundance, simply show up an hour before daytime screenings and get in the queue; the earlier the show, the more likely you are to get a ticket. Just bear in mind that there are glor-

ious mountains beckoning when the Festival starts to seem a bit too much like hard work, and they are practically empty because all the accommodation below is packed with 12,000 film folk. The resort at Park City is the largest in the state, and site of the 2002 Winter Olympics, with everything from long, gently rolling beginner runs to acres of open bowls and glades, prime powder terrain. Yet although there is plenty here to keep even the most experienced skier happy, six other mountains lie within easy reach. Snowboarders should pop over to Brighton, Solitude or Snowbird, famous for back-country terrain and the pros who choose to make their homes here. Traditionalists will revel in Alta, a smaller, steeper resort with lots

a mere \$22 per night (001 801 649 9372), and on the comfortable carpet of a friend's rented condo. However, travellers from the UK with less time, more money and more sense may prefer to book a package including flights, accommodation and a car through a US specialist such as Virgio Ski (01293 544889) or Ski Independence (0990 550555); a week in late January costs between £700 and £800. The Ski Utah website at www.skiutah.com is a great source of information on both accommodation and the resort itself.

Check out the Sundance Film Festival website at www.sundancechannel.com/ festival98, for details of the 1998 programme. Tickets for festival screenings go on sale from the festival box office on 10. January, use the time difference to your advantage and book early. The box office number is 001 435 645-7280; rickets for screenings cost \$7 each; tickets for premières cost \$10, and for panel discussions \$15:





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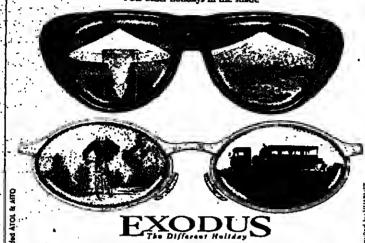
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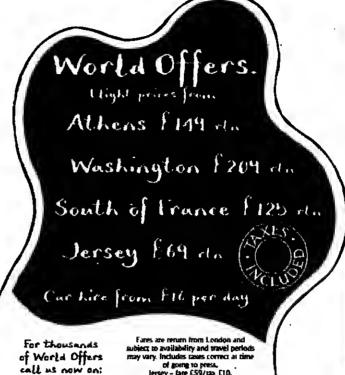
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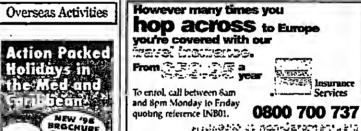
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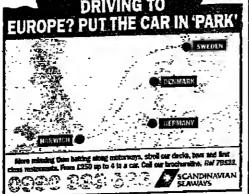
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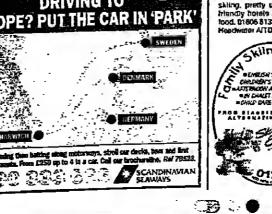
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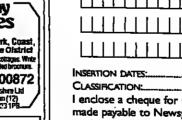
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Seres 1 - 17-

M? .5525 The usual train from London to Manchester takes two-and-a-half hours to cover 184 dull miles. But Simon Colder tracked down a new, wayward addition to the schedules, which adds 150 'free' miles plus eight or so hours, as it meanders around some of the loveliest scenery of England and Wales.

Poetry in motion. The stations chime by as the 3.13pm clatters along: from Clapham to Cwmbran, Warminster to Leominster, Pontypool and Prees to Piccadilly. And only a poet could have conceived so eccentric a ride as the Waterloo to Manchester "express". In a fit of poetic genius, Wales & West has devised the most wayward train in Britain. Hitherto there have been several ways of getting from the capital to Manchester, but until this winter none of them has involved travelling via Wales, or combined the cathedral cities of Salisbury and Hereford in a single, imperuous journey.

Here's the plan. The train sets off from Waterloo on a south-westerly trajectory, ie away from Manchester. The two meandering carriages pause at Britain's busiesi station, Clapham Junction, before setting off for a tour of the Ws: Wimbledon, Woking, Warminster, Westhury. They even manage to pass through two stations called Whitchurch, separated by 150 rail miles.

That's the great thing about the new service: its mere existence means that a hlatantly unreasonable route has officially just become "reasonable". And because of a riffle in railway rules, standard ticket holders can take as long as they wish, changing trains at will, and don't even have to catch the 3.13 train once. So you can devise a wonderfully rambling day-trip, like this one.

Oh, and you don't even have to begin at Waterloo. As far as your ticket is concerned, London is an amorphous mass. I could have begun at Charing Cross, Blackfriars or London Bridge, but I chose to begin at Victoria. At 5.32am the train sets off, gathering speed past the brutally illuminated Battersea power station. I am heading due south. To Manchester.

The train, though, says "Brighton", so and switch to the Basingstoke express.

myself with an hour to spare at the buffet on the platform. A wide spectrum of faced commuters, spilling coffee as they to keep rather better time than the aver- you emerge into Wales. Another marvel: of Chatwin's On The Black Hill.



dash for the London train, railway workers heading in the opposite direction none too hurriedly, and someone in the corner whose final destination is Manchester.

Choreographing this melée is Peggy, who knows her customers as well as she knows her Brunch Muffin (a delicious compilation of cheese, sausage, hacon, tomato and egg stuffed within a single bap; with coffee and flapjack, a bargain at £2.99). As the 7.15 to Waterloo approaches, the radio scornfully plays the Kinks' Waterloo Sunset'. I am in paradise. Dawn is well into its

stride by the time Salisbury drifts into the frame. Should you follow in my tracks, be advised that, in midwinter, Sam is the ideal time to witness the mists around the cathedral softly melting; and be warned that the through train demonstrates a philistine tendency by failing to stop here. Choose one which does. Alight in the half-light, and you can brush against English history, past the remains of the County Gaol and a hope-I ahandon the garish Connex SouthCen- lessly half-timbered Odeon cinema, to the tral yellow as planned at Clapham Junction, most beautiful Gothic structure in the country, standing proud of the meadows that lap Bath still looks magnificent through the I'd never thought much of Basingstoke around her fine skirts. Check your progress murk as you are around the city, and does serve a modern-day purpose. before, but that's because I had never found on the oldest functioning clock in the world. Brunel's Temple Meads station at Bristol conveniently attached to the north transept.

Despite having ticked more than 500

age Wales & West train. None was on time; a refreshment trolley turns up, the first train most were delayed by 10 minutes or so, which ordinarily would be neither here nor there. But if you are trying to get here, there and everywhere and still reach Manchester in time for tea, any delay is a nuisance.

You soon cheer up, though. Five minutes out of Salisbury, the train is carving through countryside of broad downs, with kindly churches keeping watch over timid hamlets. The people who've just got on at Westbury don't seem to appreciate this performance, you muse, as the train meets up with the Avon, and floats gently downstream with it.

The ticket inspectors are uniformly a cheery hunch, and unperturbed by someone who appears to be five miles short of a cheap day return (railway parlance for a none-too-bright passenger) by insisting on travelling the long way round to Manchester. "Cor hlimey, mate, good luck", was the only comment my ticket provoked.

You could subtitle this journey "England is as palatial as Bristol Parkway is brutal.

catering for five hours. A tea costs 95p, but by now you would probably pay a fiver.

Newport begins uglily, as only down-atheel British towns can. There is no way of getting from the station to the centre without clambering over herce railings or descending to a tangle of Faustian underpasses. This is car country, or, more specifically, truck territory. When the 40-ton fraternity decides to take over the planet, Newport will be their High Command. But when you clear the hurdles it turns out to be an intriguing town. The museum charts the Chartists, original social democrats whose struggle has interesting present-day parallels. Then down Commercial Road, which becomes progressively less wellnamed as you proceed south.

The saving grace is the 1906 Transporter Bridge, an enormous steel frame over the Usk river. Cables support a gondola, which carries six cars plus miscellaneous pedesand Wales through grimy windows": rail pri-trians and cyclists across the muddy watervarisation has not improved cleanliness. But course every seven-and-a-half minutes - a piece of industrial archaeology that really

At last, you eatch a train which is aiming broadly towards Manchester. As it The Severn Tunnel is here and gone in hurtles north, the climate changes every human life calls in on its way to work: stern- million times in the past 600 years, it seems a flash. Miraculously, a rainbow appears as mile through the spine-tingling landscapes

In Abergavenny, a huge bruiser of a cloud muscles over the horizon; by Hereford, the sun bestows a hencyolent midwinter sparkle upon the city. But you have to prioritise; no time to stop here, because my guidebook (a 1936 AA Road Book that I carry for its economical eloquence) promises that down the line lies "One of the most attractive English towns",

Understatement, indeed. After a couple of hours in Ludiow. I would fight its corner against Siena, Aix-en-Provence and Heidelberg. Wondrously preserved Elizahethan houses tumble down the hillside from a castle softened by the centuries to a perfect state of dereliction. The Wales & West scheduler was cruelly overlooked in the New Year's Honours; he or she deserves a CBE for introducing the British to their own country. People of Clapham Junction and Church Stretton, drinkers from Craven Arms and New Inn: you can board a train from your home and alight at what is genuinely one of the finest towns in Europe.

Winter is the ideal time to thread through the Borders. Denuded trees add by forgotten, roofless relies lying abandoned in empty fields. "Little Switzerland" comes and goes on the left, the Long Mynd Hotel celebrating Victorian exuberance.

The sky, meanwhile, tries hard to snow.

Soon Shrewsbury Abbey pops up on the right, triggering trepidation; what could follow the triumph of Ludlow? Not, I wagered, something called the Shrewsbury Quest, with its resonances of touristic tackiness. But it emhraces the Abbey grounds sublimely, while tracing the place and its people persuasively. On a quiet afternoon like this, the man in charge of calligraphy has time to indulge the visitor by describing the extent of medieval monastery and the vandalism of Thomas Telford - then Shropshire's Surveyor - in driving the A5 straight through the middle. A lone pulpit stands solemnly between the road and the goods yard. Its stiff verticality is mimicked on the far side by a fine Victorian postbox, a ruddy hexagon topped off with splendidly unnecessary plumes.

By now it is (a) getting dark, (h) hammering down with a malevolent mix of hail and rain, (e) approaching Crewe ("A great town with a park, splendid public buildings and enormous engineering works", urges the guidebook). Oh, Mr Porter, what shall I do? Stay on board. Finally the little Wales & West wanderer sidles into Piccadilly a poignant fragility to the scene, heightened alongside the Virgin express from Euston. Big train, short trip. I had been going for 11 hours. Short train, big trip, great deal.

> Next week: great little train trips. Part one of a series on Britain's unexpected railway journeys.

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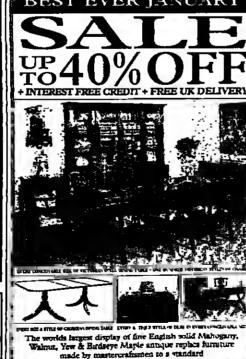
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CUTTINGS

Jean Hill, of Chittlehampton in north Devon, is worried about her panther lilies. "I sowed seeds of Lilium pardalinum in October 1986 in a 5-in pot and they grew well." she writes. "I left them in situ until 1990 when I planted them out, undisturbed, into our very fertile, acid Devon soil.

"In 1992 and 1993 they bloomed very well but, unsurprisingly, they were overcrowded, so in October I divided them. The bulbs were very big and I gave some in two friends and planted three groups of them in my own garden. We all three, living several miles apart, have had this same result.

"In 1994, they showed shnots, but only 2in high. Every year since they have showed shoots, this year reaching 6in, but nowhere near flowering size. I recently dug up one of my groups of bulbs, just as the foliage was changing colour. They were very healthy little bulbs and roots.

"My friends have one group in light woodland, the other in the vegetable garden. We are all very patient gardeners, but are now beginning to lose patience. Why have the bulbs stopped flowering?"

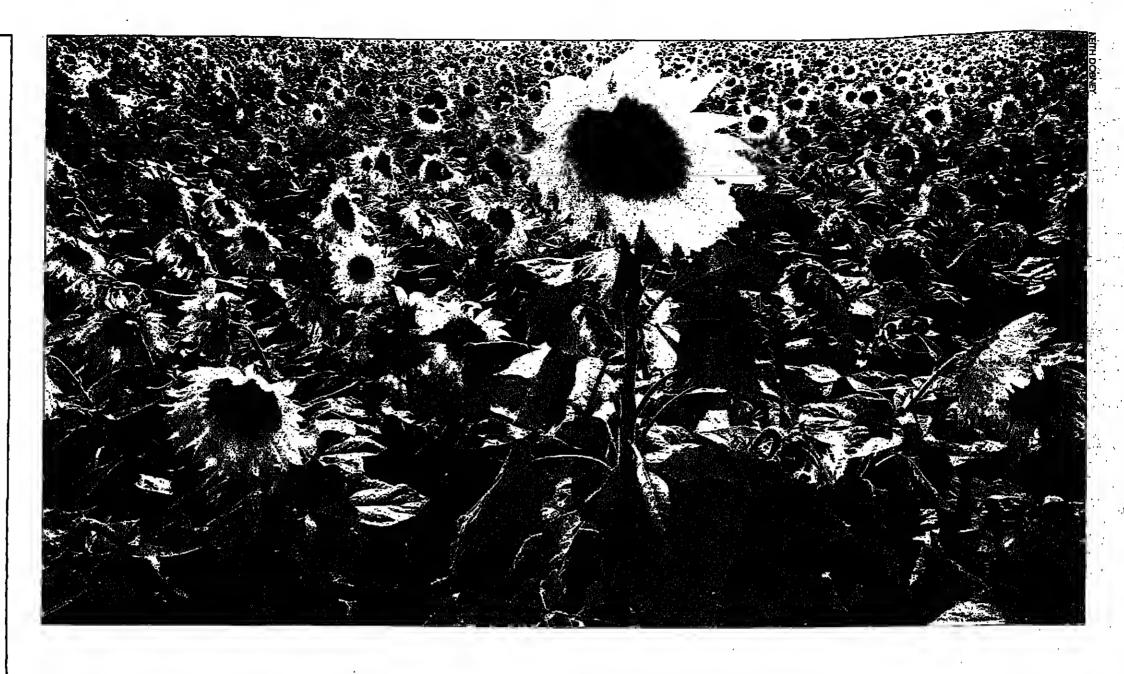
Lilium pardalinum, the panther lily, is a showy and generally easy American species that in the wild grows up to at least 5ft. The flowers curve back on themselves and are richly red and gold, with dark spots round the centre. Left to itself the plant makes a matted mass of rhizomatous roots, with little clusters of hulb-like scales providing the growing-points for the flowering stems. The mat is important, as it provides the reservoir of food and drink for the flowering stems above.

Since Mrs Hill and all her friends have suffered the same problem, I would guess that the disturbance caused by dividing the original clump is probably the cause of the lilies taking a step backwards. Perhaps too much of the rooty mat was lost in the division. so that the lilies need to huild themselves up underground again before they have the strength to flower.

Our recent dry summers may be a problem, too. What Lilium pardalinum likes best is a soil that is well drained. hut moist too, with plenty of leaf mould and humus to keep the root-run cool. It doesn't like wind and it doesn't like deep shade. The acid soil that Mrs Hill talks of should suit the plant well, provided it does not dry out. The hulbs are happiest with at least 5in of soil on

But at least they seem to be trying to recover lost ground. The growing shoots are getting higger each year, rather than disappearing altogether. When they have huilt themselves up to their former strength I am sure they will come into bloom again. Meanwhile, Mrs Hill needs to keep them well watered.

The winter lecture series arranged by the University of Oxford's botanic garden starts this Thorsday, when the garden designer Noel Kingsbury talks about the "new wave" of perennial planting (mass planting, German fashion, for anyone still riding the old wave). In this series, lecturers have been invited to explore "Passions and Prejudices". There will be plenty of both on 29 January, when Rohin Lane Fox explains the way to "Better Gardening". Lectures start at 8pm in the Garden Quadrangle Auditorium, St John's College, Oxford, Tickets, £6 a lecture, from Louis Allen, at the Botanic Garden, Rose Lane, Oxford OX1 4AX (01865 276920).



The instant garden

Suppose you are given a garden for six months, and £100 with which to make it beautiful. What plants would you buy, and how would you get round the fact that you will seldom be there to weed and water them? Anna Pavord presents the ultimate lowmaintenance source of beauty and edible vegetables.

Sunflowers were the stars of a quick-fix garden that I planted last summer for a friend who had a six-month lease of a cottage, running from the beginning of April to the end of September.

The brief was simple. The garden had to be cheap. She wanted it to peak in Ausseed to the start of flowering. If we sowed gust, when she would be spending most too early, they would peak too early. time at the place. She wanted it to retain the atmosphere of an old cottage garden,

The patch was roughly 20ft square, bounded by gravel paths on two sides. Once it had grown cahbages; now it was completely bare. There was no outside tap, way my friend would be using the place only at weekends, except for the August stint. So this had to be a garden that demanded little upkeep, where the plants would be left pretty much to find their own food and drink. The soil was light and fast-

a boundary alongside one of the paths. This ate up the lion's share of the £100 budof the gooseberries, balanced on long, 4ft learned about them in Joyfull Newes out of

image of what an old-fashioned cottage, by the super-optimist John Frampton. garden should look like. I egged her on, because I love them too. They were planted as soon as she moved in, so from the beginning the patch looked less forlorn.

At the beginning of April, too, I started off the sunflowers, two seeds each in a series of 3-in pots. Watered well, then wrapped in cling film, the pots needed no attention until the seedlings poked through. Nonetheless, I thought I'd keep them on my windowsill at home until they were ready to plant out. You need to be around at the right time, to whip the cling film off the pots so that the seedlings can stand upright. You can sow them earflowers generally take four months from

Sunflowers have become deeply fashionable, the bonus for gardeners being with a mixture of vegetables and flowers. that there are now masses of different kinds to choose from. I used 'Moonwalker' (Thompson & Morgan, £1.79 for 40 seeds), a branching type about 4ft-5ft tall with pale yellow flowers. I also so watering would be a palaver, and any-sowed 'Full Sun' (Suttons, 99p), a more traditional, golden yellow type, and 'Gold and Silver' (Mr Fothergill's, £1.25), which has yellow flowers above soft velvet leaves of a silvery-grey green.

Sunflower colours range upwards and downwards from the standard bright yellow, to include a pale ivory and a deep, rich The first things to go in were standard mahogany. They've been planted in cotgooseberries, four of them planted down tage gardens for so long that we think of them as being part of our culture, but, like most of our garden flowers, they are forget, but neither of us ever regretted the eigners, brought over from America in the extravagance. The round, lollipop heads 16th century. English gardeners first

stems, suited my friend's picture-book the Newe Founde Worlde, translated in 1577

"It casteth out the greatest flowers," he wrote, "and the moste perticulars that ever hath been seen, for it is greater than a great Platter or Dishe, the whiche hath divers coulers ... It showeth marveilous faire in Gardines,

From the same part of the world, at about the same time, came the nasturium, which I also started off in pots for my friend's cottage garden. I used two kinds, 'Jewel of Africa' (Thompson & Morgan, £1.19) which has long, trailing shoots of marbled foliage, and 'Empress of India' (Thompson & Morgan, £1.29), which is much bushier, with steely, hlue-green lier than April, hat I was thinking of the leaves and deep, luscious red flowers. Nas-August deadline for the cottage. Sun-turtiums are a gamble. Sometimes they get choked with blackfly. I've been lucky take the chance.

The plan was that the nasturtiums should cover the ground under the gooseherries, in a strip about 4ft wide. As an extra precaution, I pushed a few seeds direct into the ground there and put jamjars over them, to protect them from voles.

In May there was another spurt of activity when we planted out two widely spaced, staggered rows of dahlia cuttings behind the gooseberries. The plan for the plot was very simple. Everything was planted in parallel rows, in the old-fashioned way. The dahlias were all red, yellow or hronze, 'Hamari Gold', 'Christopher Taylor', 'Alva's Doris', 'Jescot Julie' and the like. Some, such as 'Grenadier', had dark, purplish foliage. We also planted some slips of globe artichoke, which I'd detached from the sides of mature plants in another friend's garden.

These made a kind of informal hedge ries with insides like pudding wine.

on the side of the plot furthest from the gooseberries. The slips needed watering in well, hut on that light soil they made fresh root very quickly. They were there for their looks rather than with any hope of a crop, but two of the plants got going quickly enough to produce heads later that

summer. That was a bonus. Meanwhile, I had also sown seed of tomatoes and courgettes, raising the plants, like the nasturtiums and sunflowers, in single, 3-in pots. By the end of May, both were hig enough to set out in the patch. We planted four courgette plants in a line next to the dahlias, watered them in well and mulched them thickly with mushroom compost. They got no more water for the rest of the summer. I'd chosen the courgette 'Taxi' (Mr Fothergill, £1.55) for its bright yellow fruit, and the plants' muscling in. An outdoor bush cucumber would have done much the same job, but

without the glistening splashes of yellow. In the same late-May session, we planted out the sunflowers and the tomatoes, setting them alternately in a single row in the space that was left between the courgettes and the artichokes. The tomatoes were tall, cordon ones, the sort you have to tie to a stake and nip the side shoots from. Bush tomatoes would have been more labour-saving, but there wasn't enough floor space for them in the patch. And I liked the idea of the tall, stout stems of the sunflowers broken up by tomatoes, hanging with bunches of red fruit. 'St Pierre' (Marshalls, £1.06) was the one 1 chose, because its flavour is so good.

By August, the gooseberries had cropped, one of the bushes producing huge, amber-coloured dessert gooseber-

Undiscovered by hlackfly, the nasturtiums swirled outrageously around the gooseberry bushes' trunks, regularly attempting to take over the path, as well as their allotted strip. But you can easily pick up the shoots and lay them in the direction you want them to go.

The dahlias expluded, though the rain that helped the courgettes to produce a humper crop snapped one or two of the stems of 'Hamari Gold'.

However, weeds never had a chance against the beefy foliage of the courgettes and the artichokes. Only around the stems of the sunflowers and the tomatoes did a little light hoeing have to be done now and again.

For a minimum outlay (without the gooseberries, you could have done the whole thing for £20), the plot gave a long with them in my own garden over the last wide-spreading leaves acted as an extra and brilliant display, as well as providing couple of years, and so was prepared to kind of mulch, stopping weeds from at least £20-worth of vegetables. The vegetables were a particular source of pleasure to my friend, because she had never before grown anything she could eat, and hadn't realised it was so easy. Every tomato, every shining courgette was a miracle, as far as she was concerned.

Quick-fix gardens have to rely to a great extent on annuals. In this particular case I used nasturtiums and sunflowers because they bulk up more quickly than other flowers. In a smaller patch, a mixture of marigolds, poppies and eschscholzia might have been more in scale.

Get seeds from Thompson & Morgan, Poplar Lane, Ipswich, Suffolk IP8 3BU (01473 688821), Suttons, Hele Road, Torquay, Devon TQ2 7QJ (01803 614614). Mr Fothergill's Seeds, Kentford, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 7QB (01638 552512), SE Marshall & Co. Wisbech, Cambridgeshire PE13 2RF (01945 466711).

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The mystery of the disappearing spring salmon

The salmon in our rivers are disappearing. Why? And what can be done about it?

If the owners of a great fishing river put out a cri de coeur, something must be seriously amiss - and so it is on the Tweed, which flows out to the east coast on the borders of Scotland and England. The spring run of salmon, once the river's glory, has dwindled almost in nothing, and nobody is sure wby. The River Tweed Commission has launched a major conservation programme.

Not only fishermen stand to lose if the river runs down. A survey carried out by the Deloitte Touche consulting group in 1996 showed that fishing contributes £12.5m a year - more than 10 per cent of local tourist income - to the Border economy, and supports 500 full-time jobs.

Including all its tributary burns, the Tweed has nearly 2,000 miles of waterways. The natural fecundity of the system is not in doubt, as I saw when I went electro-fishing with Dr Ronald Campbell, chief hiologist of the Tweed Foundation, which is charged with enhancing stocks of salmon and trout.

ford Burn, where the water was only about 6in deep, and so clear that every detail of the bottom was visible.

ring anode. Then suddenly the water was alive with flashes of silver as trout fry and part turned belly-up, temporarily stunned by the 200-volt current. Every one was netted and meticulously measured before being returned to the water; and from the morning's work we could compute that this single burn con-

tained more than 400,000 infant fish. The challenge is to ensure that the highest possible numbers of this huge

DUFF HART-DAVIS

stock survive to maturity and eventually, after going out to live at sea, return in the river to spawn. Already much has been done in the upper reaches of the system. Miles of new fences prevent sheep and cattle from eroding the land at the edges of burns, and the banks themselves have been extended into the stream, increasing the depth of water and speed of flow. Man-made obstacles have been removed, so that fish can He was working that day in the Tur- move up to spawn, and artificial pools have been created.

Yet all this work seems to be having only a limited effect. The number The hurn appeared to contain no life of salmon taken on rod and line is gen-- until Dr Camphell switched on his erally between 9,000 and 10,000 a side of smoked salmon, a sweatshirt or Tweed, or on many other British rivers.

year, and the number netted in the es- a collection of flies - to anyone who puts tuary is hetween 8,000 and 9,000; but only a small proportion are caught before 1 June. Thirty years ago, spring rod catches were around 5,000 a year; now they are little more than a fifth of that.

Small wonder, then, that radical proposals have been made. From 1 February, netsmen are asked to return, and tag, all salmon caught up to 1 June (they will he compensated by a reduction in the levy they pay). Anglers are being asked to return "a majority of fish

caught up to the end of June". "In general," says the recommendation, "there will be a presumption that the first fish taken will be returned (unless ir is the angler's first-ever salmon)." The second fish may be kept, but the third should be put back, and so on and all fish returned to the water should be tagged. "The first fish is the most important. It is putting this one back that will make the difference."

Further, there will be a ban on killing any fish found to be tagged already. "A tag in a fish should be regarded as its passport to the spawning grounds." The theory is that all concerned will he encouraged to play ball by the reassurance that if they return a fish to the river, it will not be killed by anyone else.

The Commissioners have also applied for a legal ban on worms and lures with multiple hooks on the lower reach-

back a previously untagged fish. Clearly the scheme will depend to a large extent on personal honesty. Judith Nicol, the lively director of the foundation, concedes that there may always be cheats; but, she says, "There's tremendous enthusiasm for the idea, hecause it involves everybody."

So far, so good. But what is happening oot to sea? Nobody can answer that key question. The Commissioners are hoping to persuade the drift-netsmen who operate in inshore waters to postpone operations until the beginning of June. Yet driftnet catches have also declined drastically, and global warming may be having a disastrous effect on salmon stocks in the Atlantic.

The theory - so far unproven - is that warm water has pushed up into the normally cold areas of ocean between Greenland and Icetand, where salmon go to feed; that higher temperatures are affecting their food, and that the fish are not attaining the size or strength they need to return to their native rivers and spawn. Smolts - second- and third-year salmon - are thought to be particularly at risk.

I, for one, would not want to fish if I could not keep what I caught; for me the whole point of the exercise is to hring home something delicious to eat. But evidently there is no longer room es; and they are offering a reward - a for such caveman attitudes on the

حكذا من الاعل

Lulubelle ha

It really was the pits

A disused coal-mine in Leicestershire has been transformed into a science park to entertain the whole family. Louise Duffield made an extended pit stop.

When you struggle for almost an hour to prise your children away from the exhibits and into the car for the home journey, you know the attraction has hit the target. But when it takes almost as long to round up the adults, then it's scored a bull's-eye. That's what happened to us at Snibston Discovery Park in Coalville, Leicestershire, which is built on the site of the former Snibston Colliery.

The hands-on Science Alive! gallery has experiments based on the weather, parts of the body, and energy. Where else could you get the chance to walk through a tornado, or watch how the joints of your legs move when you ride a bike? Then there's the engineering gallery, the transport gallery, the extractive industries gallery, the textiles and fashion gallery...

Until 6 November, the discovery park is hosting an exhibition celebrating 75 years of the BBC and 30 vears of BBC local radio - giving visitors the chance to read the TV news and become a radio presenter.

Once outside the enormous

exhibitions hall, the learning through play theme is extended into the science play area. This is an educ-

ational play area at its best. Add to this the wheelwright's workshop, the nature trail and the Century Theatre, and you have a recipe for sheer fun. Not to he missed is the tour of the colliery buildings, given by an ex-miner.

When George Stephenson, of railway fame, sunk his first mine-shaft at Snibston in 1832, he could have had little idea that mining would continue until 1986, when the site was imaginatively turned into Leicestershire's premier tourist attraction.

Dianne Williams, a student teacher from Derhy, went to Snibston Discovery Park with her sons, David, 11, and Robert, eight.

Dianne: I thought it was lovely because it was spacious and open-plan. and there was plenty of room to move around the exhibits.

In many ways it was better than the Science Museum in London, because it was not so husy, and it was small enough to do it all in one day. But there is plenty there for a full day out, and it seems excellent value. It also appeals to families. Small children can watch what's going on; older children will be inquisitive - why this, why that? - and secondary school children will understand. There are coming off. If you put your hands on events.

one or two areas specifically for the it one of the beams comes to your

I thought it was funny when the miner locked us in the elevator - it looked as if he was going to send us signs that explained what was going down, and I was kind of nervous in on. And there were signs in hraille. a way.

under-fives, too, which is good,

I was impressed that not only did

To have ex-miners giving the col-

stuff. There were some interesting

books there. I bought a 3-D model

Robert: I have been before - about

two years ago, with the school - so

I knew it would be good. I liked the

pretend radio with lots of huttons.

There was also a lock thing, which I

was experimenting with making

three sets of water rise and fall. There

was a hollow foothall with a hall in

of the Periodic Table.

his experiences.

was puzzling.

the instructions on the exhibits tell

you what to do, but there were also

liery tour is a good idea. Anyone could have taken a party of people Snibston Discovery Park is in Ashby round and explained what was what, Road, Coalville, Leicestershire (01530 510851). Open every day exhut he really brought it to life with cept 25 and 26 December. November to March 10am to 5pm, April to October 10am to 6pm. David: I enjoyed the interactive

science hits. I liked the solar-powered Admission: £4 adults, £2.75 children hoats - you can control the dimness five to 15, under-fives free, £2.95 conof the light, and that controls the cessions, £10 family ticket (two adults and three children). Colliery speed of the boat. All the stuff there tour: adults £1, children 50p. Educ-I quite liked the bit where you can ation and group rates on request. talk on the radio and go on the tele-Access: disabled access throughout vision. I was very interested in the colthe exhibition hall and to most of the liery tour. The dynamite hit was good. colliery tour. A variety of special The shop had a good range of needs is catered for.

Toilets and baby-change facilities: plenty of clean toilets. Baby-change facilities and toilets for the disabled. Catering: a cafe/coffee shop, with a range of hasic snaeks, cakes, drinks etc. Indoor picnic area.

Shop: spacious and well-stocked, incorporating a bookshop. There is also a tourist information point.

Education: the park is tailor-made for school visits, of which Snibston has many, at all levels. It also hosts the middle with electrical lights avariety of temporary exhibitions and



Mine host: Snibston Discover Centre

MOTORING

Thrash the latest Porsche? You can with a Nissan

If you thought all Nissans were boring, Roger Bell has news for you. The Skyline GT-R is a technical tour de force, and entertaining too.

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MATERIAL TRANSPORT

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There is something amiss here. Think Nissan and your mind should focus on sound, sensible, unimaginative family saloons, not beguiling soul-mates for speedy connoisseurs. So what's this? A maverick model that is getting rave reviews from enthusiasts of the specialist press, and can take on - and beat - Porsche's new 911? Surely not.

its irue. The akvime GI-K is a ious shades and ahilities have been around since the late Sixties, spearheading Nissan's competitive endeavours with more than 200 significant race victories. Hitherto, they have found their way to Britain only through the back door, as personal imports by well-heeled aficionados. However, the ninth iteration of the only Nissan to ac-might invalidate the normal threequire legendary status is now a listed model - at £50,000. Import restrictions will limit the total sold in this country to 100. Fifty grand

formidable machine. Skylines in var- a car with an ugly visage and lines lion's share of the energy. Anoththat hardly define grace or elegance. It's the hruising muscle beneath the skin of this two-door tearaway that

explains the price, if not justifies it. Power comes from a race-bred straight-six twin-cam engine, aided by two American turbochargers that boost output to 280 horsepower more with electronic fettling that year/60,000-mile warranty. A rearhiased four-wheel-drive transmission system, centred on a fivespeed manual gearbox, allows the is a lot to pay for a Nissan, let alone wheels with the most grip to get the bos come on strong, generating action, not distance you from it. player. There is noom in the back

er novelty is that all four wheels are steered, and not always in the same direction.

Fears that the driving experience may be diluted by technical overkill are unfounded. What sets the Skyline apart from most other hightech supercars is that it is as entertaining as it is able. Performance is terrific, though the car's competition ancestry is betrayed by the engine's low-rev languor. It needs to be spinning freely, if not actually raced, hefore the twin tur- the wheel should draw you into the

eruptive torque (as well as a discreer snarl) that makes short work of overtaking. Even on wet roads, the Skyline's power can be safely deployed without destabilising wheelspin. You can do things in a GT-R that would send into a spin, say, an

Aston Martin Vantage costing four times as much. There is a meaty tactility about the Skyline's controls, particularly its sharp steering. It is the mark of a great car, as opposed to a good fast one, that the feedback through

There's mure, however, to the Skyline than dynamic prowess engendered by a strong engine, tenacious traction, mighty anti-lock hrakes and amazing cornering powers.

Apart from being enormously rewarding to drive, and very safe with it, the Skyline is an eminently practical and civilised mode of transport. Although the ride on stiff, handlingbiased suspension is firm to the point of being harsh, embracing sears and air conditioning ensure long-distance comfort. Other equipment includes two airbaes and a CD

for two adults without cramping and the boot - its lid weighted hy an adjustable "wing" that exerts downforce at speed - is generous. There is nothing special about the cahin or the conservative, mainstream dash, which could have come from

any up-range executive hatehhack. Snags? Other than the price, and high running costs, the Skyline is officially available through only one distributor - St Helens-based Middlehurst Motorsport. Even with a collection and delivery service. routine maintenance could pose

Specifications

Price: £50,000. Engine: 2.6 litres, six cylinders in line, 24 valves, 280bhp at 6,800rpm. Transmission: five-speed manual gearbox, four-wheel drive. Performance: top speed 155mph (governed), 0-60mph in 5.0 seconds. Fuel consumption: 21 mpg average.

Audi A8 4.2 Quattro, £51,896. Bigger, roomier, plusher 4x4 car than Skyline, with the emphasis on luxury and comfort rather than performance. Beautifully made.

BMW M3 3.2. £38,420. Sporting compact with strong image and tremendous performance from lovely engine Much cheaper than Skyline, but not so fluent in its handling

Jaguar XK8, £49,625. Elegant luxury coupé with smooth V8 engine and auto transmission. Not as fast or roomy as Skyline, but looks a million.

Porsche 911, £64,650, New 911 is faster, quieter, roomier, less flawed than the old one but it's less involving. Refinement has robbed it of

MY WORST CAR: RON MOODY'S FORD CONSUL

Go man, go, she said. Lulubelle had other ideas

My worst car was, as is not uncommon, my first. It was a 1951, second-hand, £400 offwhite Ford Consul convertible with a dark green hood and whitewall tyres. The number plate was LBL 282, so she had to be a Lulubelle, a name jus- 1 chivalrously took the hlame tified at once by her feminine temperament.

Some might have attributed her poor compression to four delicate cylinders, but I knew she kept in third gear at a steady 25mph to look after me as took one member of the cast until I'd had more experience.

I was playing at the Apollo mate revue For Amusement for a matinee through Berwick designed, Luluhelle proved new £1.300 off-white Ford Zu-

Street market: Lulubelle was deeply offended at having to rub shoulders with the common coster barrows and nudged them imperiously out of the way. The costers swore at her and threatened her bonnet but and paid to have the first of her many dented doors repaired. After the Apollo run, we drove

off on a provincial tour. She floated between theatres like a bird but if I so much on board, she rumbled and juddered and steamed and stalled. Theatre in London in the inti- As for pulling the birds, the purpose for which white convertibles with whitewall tyres were

possessive and impossible. My first date was a Canadian girl who asked me why l

travelled all the time at 25mph and in third gear. I said the Lulubelle liked it, and never saw her again. Another girl leapt into my flashy front seat after a party and said "Go, man. go!" That didn't last either. It was about this time that Lulubelle exposed her worst fault. She sulked. I accepted the occasional starter-switch seizure as unfortunate hut when she

became tearful and resorted to damp starts, the end was near. After seven years I sold her in part exchange for a car named Mac. a 1959, hrand

diac convertible with a dark green hood and whitewall tyres. As I drove masterfully off in my shining hright, mucho male knight of the road, I noticed a young student walking around Lulubelle, giving her a very ardent inspection. I swallowed a pang of jealousy and

Ron Moody has worked in showbusiness for nearly half a century. He has written several hooks including Very Very Slightly Imperfect and 'The Devil You Don't. The Amazon Box' is his first children's bank. which is published by Robsen and priced at £14.95. He was talking to James Ruppert.

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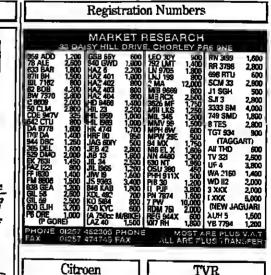
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Peugeot

Writing is something everyone can do - and the benefits to your whole life can be surprising. Patricia Cleveland-Peck joined a 'creative journal' course.

With a new year comes a fresh chance to sort out your life. You know the feeling: nothing seems impossible; this will be the vear to travel, ditch that hopeless man, start that new job, write that book. Some people even commit these optimistic thoughts to the pages of their hrand-new diaries - hut sadly, the majority of resolutions are abandoned before the month is out.

Yet, according to Simona Parker, who runs a workshop known as "creative journal", the simple expedient of writing a diary can help you to make sense of your life. The journal used in her method, however, is anything but simple, consisting of 20 separate loose-leaf sections to cover different aspects of your life and personality: Body, Work, Here and Now, Relationships, Dreams, etc.

"They are not there to classify your psyche," Simona says, "but to open doors. Each is a channel of energy, and by working in the sections, the material starts to shift and interrelate so that transformation and growth can take place and a sort of sense of one's life can emerge."

Her method owes a lot to Dr Ira Progoff, a Jungian psychologist who developed the Intensive Journal Workshop in

"He is undoubtedly the master," says Simona, "but I have taken his method out of a rather rigid framework and simplified it for our European culture." Like Progoff, she uses the principles of "depth psychology", which seeks to integrate an individual's conscious and unconscious aspects, but she hrings to it a background in "transpersonal psychology". The aim is to move transition and crisis." forward from a static position.

Simona explains, "you'll find that it will almost do the work by itself; the crossreferences free your energy and reveal examples of the Jungian concept of syn- it gives a purpose to your past life. It helped chronicity, or meaningful coincidence, me when I lost my son ... it just works."



icularly useful in times of decision-making,

"When you get used to the journal," attending Simona's workshops on and off for 10 years. "It is an extraordinarily effi- standing which is quite special." cient way of putting a grid over tumultuous experiences," she says. "You need a grid -

which will give you new insights. It is part- Liz, who was an English teacher, has now write, can cause initial apprehension; this speech; being a solitary activity, it draws on taken up writing; as a bonus, she finds that disappears when you realise that your jourthe journal helps with her memories. "It This is endorsed by Liz, who has been hrings you right back into the spirit of the thing, evokes it and gives you an under-

> You don't need to be a great writer or even particularly literate to use this method. Negative memories of school, or the belief that only academic or "educated" people Writing, she claims, is more powerful than which a person has erected around them-

THE FIDE WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP: WILLIAM HARTSTON

nal is for your eyes only. (Simona's old journais are kept in a locked bag inside a big black trunk that dominates her sitting-room,

a potent symbol if ever there were one.) In fact, the simple act of writing itself, according to research by Gillie Bolton, of

a deeper well. She encourages people, especially those with stressful lives, to engage in personal and reflective writing. She has worked with doctors and others in caring professions, and is now involved in a project whereby they suggest therapeutic writing to their patients. Sometimes she finds Sheffield University, can be therapeutic. that the writings "slip between the bars are held at 11, Brackley Road, Chiswick, Lon-

selves", and their pens write unexpected things. This is especially useful for people who find it hard to talk about their worries. She, too, emphasises the importance of privacy. What is said cannot be unsaid, but in a diary you can contradict yourself, try things out or write nonsense without the embarrassment of anyone knowing. It can, she claims, also pin things down. If you just try to think things through, your thoughts may trace familiar circles, "only to slip away with the ghost of a laugh", but if you get them down on paper, they are there to work with.

This reflective writing offers a path to the inner being through several unusual techniques. One of these, which Simona's "creative journal" method shares, is the Jung-inspired "dialoguing", in which you write down an imaginary conversation with anything or anyone of importance m your life. This permits you to "talk" to people, living or dead, with whom you have "unfinished business". Often the guilt felt after the death of a parent or other loved one can be defused in this way, and areas of conflict can be resolved. You can also "dialogue" with parts of your body -- giving your lungs, for example, the chance to complain about how you "look after"... them when you just must have a cigarette.

Another interesting element in the "creative journal" method is the "crossroads" section, in which you can explore the "roads not taken", or areas of regret in your life - and, by writing about them, move on. Many of Simona's clients have found that the method leads to valuable new insights. Ann, an American who has been working with Simona sporadically for 17 years (most clients begin with the intensive weekend workshops, then return for further, one-to-one consultations when necessary), finds it "helps to give space in the world of chatter around us - it helped when my husband left me".

Simona herself is often astonished by the significance of what she has written, finding that it reveals much that would not occur to the conscious mind.

Simona Parker's "creative journal" workshops don W4 (0181-995 5320).

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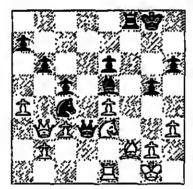
GAMES

Michael Adams's fine run in the World Chess Championship came to an end when he lost a rapidplay decider in the semi-final against Viswanathan Anand. Here is a hlow-by-hlow account of their match. Game 1: Adams sacrificed a

pawn in the opening, gaining attacking chances and pressure that lasted until the endgame. Anand needed to defend with great accuracy to save himself. The game was eventually drawn only when White's last pawn was about to disappear from the board, leaving only the two kings: White: Adams Black: Anand 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 dri 3 Bb5+ Bd7 4 Bxd7+ Qxd7 5 0-0 Nc6 6 c3 Nf6 7 d4 Nxe4 8 d5 Ne5 9 Re I Nxf3+ 10 Qxf3 Nf6 11 c4 c5 12 dxe6 fxe6 13 Bg5 Be7 14 Nc3 h6 15 Bh4 0-0 16 Oh3 Kf7 17 f4 Rad8 18 Rad1 Rg8 19 Qf3 Rge8 20 Rd3 Kf8 21 g4 Kg8 22 g5 Nb7 23 Qh5 Rf8

24 gxh6 Rxf4 25 Bxe7 Qxe7 26 Nd5 Qh4 27 Qxh4 Rxh4 28 Rxe6 Rxh6 29 Re7 Rg6+ 30 Rg3 Rxg3+ 31 hxg3 Rh8 32 Rd7 Nf6 33 Nxf6+ gxf6 34 a4 Rf8 35 Rxb7 Rf7 36 Rb8+ Rf8 37 Rh7 Rf7 38 Rb8+ Rf8 39 Rh5 Kf7 40 a5 Ke6 41 a6 Ke5 42 Rb7 Kd4 43 h3 Kc3 44 Kf2 Rh8 45 Ke3 Re8 46 Kf4 Re1 47 Kf5 Ra1 48 Kxf6 Rxa6 49 Kf5 Ra1 50 Ke6 a5 51 Kxd6 a4 52 bxa4 Rxa4 53 Rb5 Rxc4 54 Rxc5 Rxc5+ 55 Kxc5 Kd3 draw

Game 2: This time it was Adams who had to defend accurately to save himself. Anand pushed hard with the white pieces, hut never quite huilt up enough advantage to win the game. Adams managed to hlockade a dangerous looking passed pawn, while also leaving himself enough flexibility to prevent an attack on his king. Drawn in 48 moves.



Game 3: The first real missed opportunity of the match. Anand played well to develop a powerful position with Black. In the diagram position, however, he gave in to the temptation to play 29...Qd2? when 30.Nf5! exf5 31.Qxc4+ solved White's problems. Instead, 29... Bd4! would have left Adams struggling. The game was eventually drawn in 35 moves.

Game 4: The last of the slow time-limit games produced the

fourth draw in a row, but Adams had to demonstrate high defensive skills to save himself after his Marshall Gambit had left him a pawn behind for very little compensation. Just as his position was looking at its worst, however, he found a nice way to create some counterplay. Eventually, Anand could do no better than steer the game into a level endgame. Drawn in 46 moves.

The quick-play deciders: games five and six (25 minutes for all moves, plus 10 seconds per move completed) were both drawn, the first quietly, the second a wild affair. Games seven and eight (15 minutes, plus 10 seconds a move) were also drawn. So the stage was set for the sudden death play-off. Four minutes to White; five to Black, plus 10 seconds a move.

White: Anand Black: Adams

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 exd5 cxd5 4 c4 Nf6 5 Nc3 e6 6 Nf3 Be7 7 cxd5 Nxd5 8 Bc4 Nxc3 9 bxc3 0-0 10 0-0 Nd7 11 Bd3 Qc7 12 Qe2 Re8 13 c4 g6 14 c5 Nf6 15 Ne5 Bd7 16 Bf4 Qc8 17 Rab1 Nd5 18 Bg3 Rf8 19 Rfc1 Bf6 20 Nc4 Bxd4 21 Nd6 Qd8 22 Nxb7 Qf6 23 c6 Bc8 24 Rh3 e5 25 Be4 Be6 26 Rf3 Qg5 27 Qc1 Qe7 28 Qa5 Bb6 29 Qa3 Qxa3 30 Rxa3 f6 31 Nc5 Bxc5 32 Rxc5 Nc7 33 f3 a6 34 h4 Rad8 35 Rc1 Rd2 36 Bc1 Rxa2 37 Rxa2 Bxa2 38 Ba5 Rf7 39 Rd1 Nb5 40 Rc1 Nc741 Rd1 Nb5 42 Rd8+ Kg7 43 Ra8 Bc4 44 Rb8 f5 45 Bc2 Bd5 46 Rb6 Nd6 47 c7 Nc8 48 Rb8 Rf8 49 Ba4 Bc6 50 Bc3 Kf6 51 f4 Kf7 52 Bxe5 Nc7 53 Rd8 Ne8 54 Kf2 Ke7 55 Bc6 a5 56 Bb7 Kf7 57 Bc6 Ke7 58 Bc3 Kf7 59 Bxa5 Rg8 60 Bb4 Na7 61 Ba4 Nc8 62 Bc5 h6 63 Bb5 g5 64 fxg5 hxg5



Michael Adams resigning the final game of his match against Viswanathan Anand.

That well-played victory earned semi-finalist, Michael Adams Viswanathan Anand a place in the final against Anatoly Karpov and a minimum of \$768,000 (£480,000) prize money. The winner of the world championship will earn \$1.37m (£850.000). As the losing

takes home \$375,000 (£220,000). which means that the last game was worth £4,000 a move. Great fun for the spectators, but is this really any way to decide a world chess championship?

PANDORA MELLY GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

Murray Lachlan Young, 28, poet and satirist.

As a metropolitan Londoner, I play the Tuhe Game. This is where you check out all the reflections in the glass of underground trains to see who you're sitting next to. Everyone in London plays this game - you'll often see husinessmen ogling young ladies - but they all pretend they don't.

People do like looking at each other, but it can be dangerous. Sometimes you might feel the energy of intense weirdness coming from the person sitting two seats away, and you think: "Oh. I'll just check who that is." It's usually someone who has been waiting to catch you looking at them, so they can attack you in some way.

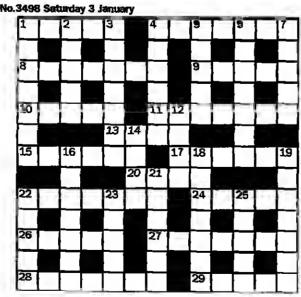
I was playing another of my solitary games the other day. Somebody had said something very rude to me earlier on in a meeting, and I was working on a hindsight put-down line. It was something about somebody waggling at me the hlunt instrument which I presumed they thought was their wit. Something along those lines; or 1 could have said: "My car is parked on a double yellow line, and I'm afraid f'll have to go and talk to the traffic warden."

The best put-down I've ever heard was on television recently. A man on a talk-show programme asked a woman a very suggestive question, and all she said was: "Scuse me. I'm goin' go feed ma dawwwg."

I get very tense and nervous, and if you want me to be horribly western about it, then games can be a good way of letting off steam. I'm one of life's natural junkies, as it were; often in the state which most people take drugs to reach, so for me, games are a natural barbiturate. Did I mention that I've played football ever since I shook hands with the England captain and goalkeeper David

Murray Lachlan Young's latest book, "Casual Sex and other verse", is published by Bantam Books,

CONCISE CROSSWORD



ACROSS Wait in line (5)

Amuses greatly (7) Clear of blame (7) Seeped (5) Horseman (5)

Fundamental nature (7) Main point (4) Food store (6) Overturns (6) Chances (4)

Staying power (7) Greek letter (5) Also known as (5) Observed (7) 28 Period from 1811 to 1820 29 Long-limbed (5)

Moved gently (5) Extend (7) Greek city state (6) Christian symbol (5) Medicated sweet (7) Grasslike plant (5) Breeding establishment

(4) Metallic element (4) 16 Berkshire town (7) 18 Book of psalms (7) 19 Be an onlooker (5,2) 21 Delicate (6) 22 Flight of steps (5) 23 Norwegian dramat Norwegian dramatist (5)

25 Type of nut (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Jam, 3 Maker (Jamaica), 7 Aviation, 8 Tuba, 9 Lost property. 10 Indeed, 12 Hasten, 14 Auld Lang Syne, 18 Burr, 19 Tribunal, 20 Layer, 21 Hod. DOWN: 1 Javelin, 2 Means, 3 Mango, 4 Kittens, 5 Robot, 6 Limped, 11 Elderly, 12 Haggis, 13 Emerald, 15 Usual, 16 Alter, 17 Youth.

BRIDGE: ALAN HIRON

65 h5 resigns.

Game all; dealer South North **♦**KQJ03 ♥KJ96 **♦752 4**42 West East **48764** ◆AJ52 **775** 742 ♦K83 **♦** J 10 9 **4**J963 ♣A 1085 South 49 **VAQ1083** ♦AQ64 ♣KQ7

"Not much to be done there!" claimed South after going down on this deal. It was true that the adverse cards did not lie well for him, but he had missed an early point.

South opened One Heart and North contented himself with a raise to Two. South made a try for the heart game by bidding Three Diamonds and, although he had an unfavourable holding in diamonds, North went on to game on the strength of his maximum single raise on the first round.

West led the eight of spades against Four Hearts and the king lost to the ace. The jack of diamonds came back hut the finesse lost and West led another diamond. South could take one discard on the queen of spades but there was no way of avoiding the loss of another diamond and a club.

So what was it that South had missed? The spade position looked clear after the lead of the eight of spades and it was his play to the first trick that proved costly. He should have played low from dummy instead of putting up the king.

East wins with the jack of spades and returns a diamond. Declarer can afford to finesse because, later on in the play, he can take a ruffing finesse in spades which will be worth two tricks to him; thus both losing diamonds can be discarded.

BACKGAMMON: CHRIS BRAY

Mrs Hudson had cleared away the final remnants of our most excellent Christmas dinner and Holmes and 1 were relaxing in front of a roaring fire. At times such as these Holmes is wont to reach for his violin. To distract him and thus preserve the peace and calm of the evening I decided to ask him a question on his

favourite game. "Holmes, when contemplating doubling your opponent you have often talked of market losing sequences. I am still having difficulty with the concept. Perhaps you could explain it to me?"

"Certainly Watson, nothing would give me greater pleasure. Whenever you are considering doubling your opponent you must have a threat which, if carried out, would cause him to drop your double next turn. The important point to remember is that before that next turn both you and your opponent will have rolled the dice and made your moves. Thus in considering how the position may look next turn you bave to consider a sequence, your own roll and your opponent's. A market losing sequence is one which changes a position from a take one turn, to a drop on the subsequent

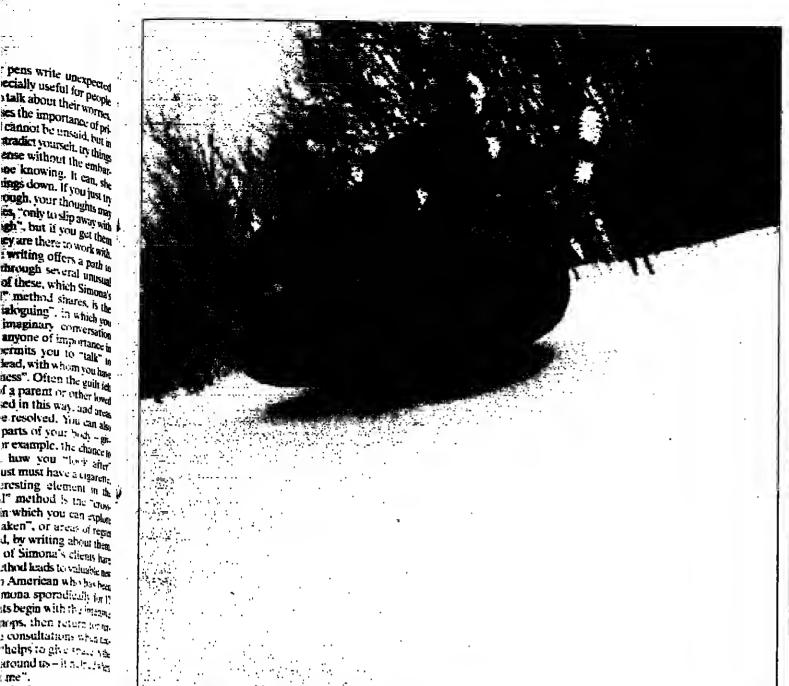
"Now I understand," I replied. "Do you have a rule of thumb for how many market losing sequences justify a double?"

"Ah, Watson, you touch on a subject close to my heart and one on which I may shortly produce a short monograph. Firstly, remember that evaluation of backgammon positions is dependent on the skill of the person performing the evaluation, so that what may be a take to one player is a drop to another. That should always be an influencing factor in your doubling decisions.

"However, let us assume that you are playing someone who you think will make rational doubling decisions. In that case my analysis leads me to believe that you should double if at least 25 per cent of sequences would lead to you losing your market. This equates quite simply to 50 per cent of your rolls followed by 50 per cent of your opponent's. I have more work to do to refine this further but I think you will find that a useful guide for the time being."

"Succinct as ever, Holmes. Now, how about a glass of post-prandial port?"

"Provided it's oot too sedimeotary, my dear





Photographs: Eric Kendall

Ride

Rubber bullets: inner tubes have only the one control - gravity

lead, with whom you have

how you "have after

American who has been mona sporadically for l?

areps, then return to up. consultations whater theirs to give the the around to - it a. it. 12/2/20

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Committee (1950) The Australia

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Pedal the foot-pump and off we go. Eric Kendoll take a spin on traditional tobogganing and flies by the seat of his pants.

sliding downhill, snow-tubing has several more dimensions: more ups, more side-toside, more fun. Just climb aboard a large inner tube and slide down a slope, without the precision of metal runners or worrying about how to steer with your toes.

Compared to the standard craft used for descending snowy slopes - wooden sleds, plastic trays and bin liners - inner tubes are uniquely comfortable and utterly uncontrollable. They also stide on any kind of frezen surface, from ice to the kind of loose snow which bogs down an ordinary sled, leaving snow-tubers in operation on otherwise unsledgeable runs.

This makes tubes perfect for the multitude of UK snow conditions that are normally compressed into the space of 48 hours, mimicking the range of an Alpine season from winter powder to spring slusb. And though this kind of versatility is generally found at the expense of performance, it's

not the case with tubes: they are fast. banana skins marinated in axle grease, and sticking into the centre of the hole. Aim with thanks to the enveloping hold of the tube due to reduced burn clearance. Stacking two doo lift service.

It's all in the bounce. While sledging is about go like the clappers on a moderate incline. There's a smoothness to their acceleration. the feel of a low-speed car-skid on ice where the lamppost across the street looms slowly. inevitably, hopelessly larger. With the slightest push-off you're away, the ride as perfect as mag-lev without the magnets or the levitation - until you get sent skywards by a bump. It's a magic carpet, with only the stalk of the tube's valve to prod you back

> The total lack of control and omnidirectional aspect of a tube means the right type of slope is fundamental to your survival - a gentle U-shape is ideal. Barring catastrophic mismanagement of the launch, the high sides of an appropriate slope keep you safe within the confines of the run, veering scarily from one edge to the other but always coming back to the centre for a treefree run-out.

Riding technique is dependent on your mood, though lying back and thinking of whatever comes to mind is the norm: climb Don't, wbatever you do, look for a big or jump aboard, legs and arms spread like hill or a steep one. Tubes are slidier than a starfish over the tube, with your bottom

affords terrifying glimpses of upcoming obstacles beyond your boots, but by the time you reach cruising speed and hit a truly inspiring section of terrain, you'll have spun round to see just swirling sky, maybe the top of the slope, and wour life flashing in front

Staying on board through bumpy technical sections is largely determined by the length of your limbs. With long arms you can hang on tight; otherwise, a reasonablesized hillock will fire you upwards out of the tube. If you and the tube carry on in roughly the same direction, you'll land on it again, with another bounce. If not, it's the end of the comfy hit of the ride.

If you manage to stay connected throughout, undulations first cause shock ripples, then waves when you hit the big one - a pneumatic effect that could hardly be called suspension, as it amplifies rather than absorbs the shocks, taking the rough edges off, but giving the ride of your life.

Though unplanned ejections are all too easy, bailing out is virtually impossible

your feet pointing downhill to start with. This around you - it's like trying to sit up on a balf-submerged Li-Lo. And tbat's the essence of tubing. Light the blue touchpaper and recline - just make sure you're pointing in a safe direction to start with.

Tubing basics

Truck inner tubes are available from commercial vehicle tyre dealers - car tyre companies don't normally stock truck sizes but they'll probably know a man who does. At around £25 each, tubes represent stunning value, considering their nautical potential during the summer months.

Tubes can be inflated at a filling station or with a foot-pump on site. An electric pump (run off a car's cigarette lighter) is ideal, and can be found in quality camping and outdoor leisure shops.

Experiment with pressures according to snow conditions. The science of tubing is faster, you'll know you've overdone it when you hear a very loud bang. The apparently logical solution to prevent small people from falling off - a smaller tube - isn't practical

small tubes may be a possibility if you can work out bow to stick them together.

Tubing dangers are minimal on the right terrain, though involuntary loopingthe-loop off larger jumps usually results in bead-first landings.

Clothing is as for sledging - it gets hot going back uphill. The traditional tobogganing trick of plastic bags secured over woolly mitts with elastic bands is optional.

Where to tube

Much of the UK's typical tobogganing terrain is ideal. Look for gentle slopes without major obstacles and no sharp rocks - a blowout at speed could be catastrophic.

For more organised tubing try Seefeld in Austria (local tourist office fax: 0043 5212 3355). The resort features a purpose-huilt run served by a lift. The bobsleigh-style track eliminates the chance of going off course in its infancy, but generally, harder equals or of encountering skiers, other than James Bond stunt doubles.

Blue Water Acres (fax: 001 705 635 1483) in Ontario, Canada, has a perfectly sbaped natural run complete with jumps and ski-

Up tor and down dale in the steps of the Devon tin miners

A Devon reservoir forms Leat, another man-made the focus of a walk that recalls Sir Francis Drake, and the area's historic involvement in tinmining. Clive Fewins takes the path to Sheepstor.

We started our walk at one of the most unusual pubs in the country - the 15th-century Royal Oak in the pretty village of Meavy, on the southwest edge of Dartmoor. Since 1894 the pub has been the property of the parish coun-

Our object was to walk the hills around Burrator Reservoir, the main source of Plymouth's water. We wanted to see the two historic leats (water channels), one of them built by Sir Francis Drake in 1589, and to explore some of the industrial history of the area in which tin is said to have been mined for more than 1,000 years.

From the Royal Oak we walked towards the village school. Left of the old smithy is a gate with a sign marked to Burrator Dam. The threequarter-mile walk there passes gently upwards through woodland. Part of the path is, in fact, the dry bed of a section of Drake's Leat.

We soon reached the road that crosses the dam. On a wall in front of us was a 1985 plaque marking the 400th anniversary of the Act authorising the construction of Drake's Leat.

Instead of crossing the dam we took the road going due north round the lake, where after about 200 yards or so we spotted our second goal: the end of Devonport

watercourse, built about 100 years after Drake's Leat to supply fresh water to the naval establishment at De-

We had achieved two of our objectives in the first mile or so, but there was call for complacency. We had another seven miles, including a large tor, ahead of us.

After about another 200 yards we came to Burrator Lodge, a large Victorian house now containing offices belonging to SouthWest Water, which owns the reservoir and much of the surrounding land. The road divides here. We took the left fork, and after a few hundred yards found ourselves on a small bridge over the Devonport

Leat. We took the signposted path into the conifer plantation on our right, and followed the swift-flowing leat. After about a third of a

mile the teat disappeared beneath a minor road. But only temporarily. We crossed a stile to reach the road and looked left, to see a flight of wooden steps and a wooden stile at the top, on the other side of the road, where we once again picked up the

We passed through another plantation for about a quarter of a mile, until it joined a metalled road at a point marked on our map as

mile, at a point called Cross Gate, we stopped and photographed the ancient hexagonal stone cross, then moved smartly on, straight ahead. leaving the metalled road to descend towards the

We knew that the area to which this track led was littered with old tin-mining workings from hundreds of vears before Drake dug his leat, which ceased activity only in the early years of this century. We soon saw evidence of extensive mineral workings on the slopes, now largely cleared of trees.

After another quarter of a another 500 yards we saw another ruined farm ahead of us. We took a signposted path which goes sharply to the right, travelling almost hack on ourselves along the bank of a small stream. through a newly-planted

> The path descended to Noraworthy Bridge, a popular heauty spot. We left the road to the rear of the car park, passing another ruined huilding - an old tinners' mill - on the wide, hard track to a point marked on the map as Deancombe.

After about two-thirds of a mile the path descended to a boggy area - Deancombe Marsh - where we crossed the stream on a small bridge created by a huge. flat stone and took the second of two

white rajah of Sarawak, who died at Sheepstor in 1868. Inside the church you can buy a teatlet explaining how the Brooke dynasty continued to he rajahs of Sarawak until the Japanese recupation during the Second World War.

Our route back from the village lay downhill, through the glorious oak and beech Burrator Woods. We took the

the foot of the hill, and thence by a track to the ancient Marchant's Cross. Meavy and the car were just half-a-mile further on; Prince-

Cross", which soon left the away. We arrived just in time minor road opposite Sheepfor tea. stor Church and led through the woods to Yeo Farm, at

oath marked "Marchant's

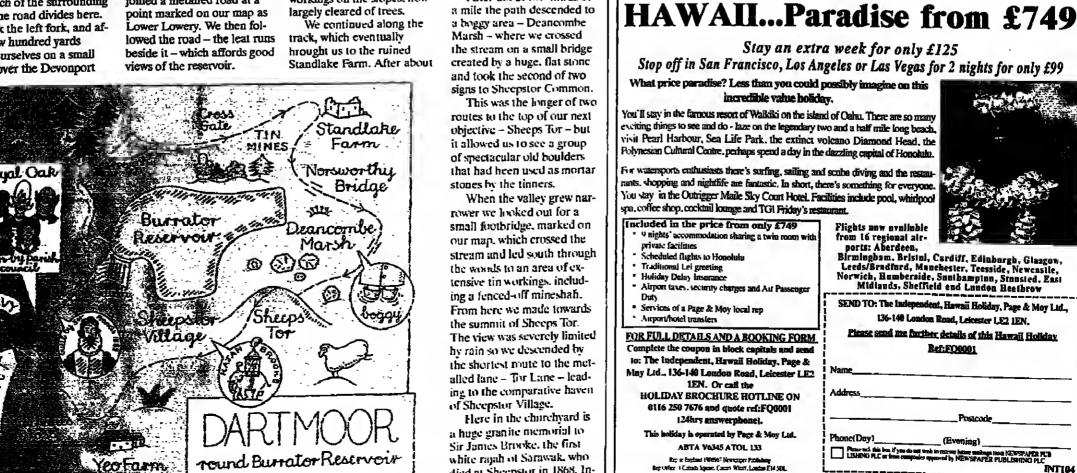
THE INDEPENDENT

Length: About eight miles

town, and a café, balf-an-bour

(shorter if wished) Map: Ordnance Survey

1:25,000 Outdoor Leisure,



UTTOXETER HYPERION 1.05 Sail By The Stars 2.35 Bonny 1.35 Sydney Twothousand 3.05 in Truth 2.05 Wisley Wonder 3.35 Royale Angela

INSPECTION: 8am (if overnight rain)

GOING: Soft (Heavy patches)

Lith hand course. Run-in of 170yds.

Course is SE of town near 85017. Ultroster station (Derby-Crewe fine) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Club 215 IOAPa 212); Tattersalls 210 (OAPa 27); Course St. CAR PARK:

Free.

■ LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 40-134 (299%), K Balley 23-115 (198%), O Nicholson 21-97 (216%), O Sherwood 19-61 (295%), Miss H Knight 17-72 (236%)

■ LEADING JOCKEYS: N Williamson 23-132 (174%), D Gridgwater 18-94 (191%), W Maraton 12-184 (87%), J F Titley 9-38 (23,7%), D Gallagher 9-62 (14.5%), U F Titley 9-38 (23,7%), D Gallagher 9-62 (14.5%), BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Nove

1.05 'HOOPS' LAURENT PERRIER LIMITED | BBC1* |
Sm Penalty Value £4,947

Materium vergit: 10st 7tb Tine handscap weights, A N C Express 10st 6tb, Bear Clew 10st 6tb BETTING: 15-8 Sall By The Stars, 9-2 A N C Express, 6-1 Parsons Boy, 10-1 Hatchard Boy, 12-1 Dison, Around The Gale, Bear Clem, 14-1 Lence Amstrong, Bally Clover, 20-1 Commercial Artist

FORM GUIDE

A true stayer is wanted for this slog through the mud and Tim Forster has the right type in SAIL EY THE STARS, Smart over hurdles, and a writter on her chasting debut at Windson, the mare is ser for another good season judged on her efforts here and at Linglied. With just three below her in the weights. Sail By The Stars has a banker look with the FORM GUIDE

Meeting abandoned due to enow and free

1.45 MANDARIN HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) BBC1 \$10,000 added 3m 2f 110yds Pen Value £7,337 FIVER MANDATE made a pleasing return when number-up behind subsequent Welch Na-tional second Dom Samural at Chepstow and can go one better of the same rating. Sur-ley Bay reserves his best for Wincarton, where he was winning for the fifth time when besting Andre Laval half a length in November. Selection: RIVER MANDATE 2.15 CHALLOW HURDLE (GRADE 1) (CLASS A) E25,000 added 2m 5f Pensity Value £15.550 BBC1 1221-2 ARCTIC CAMPER (15) (BF) (Lady Harris) D Nicholson 6 ft 7. _____R Johnson Ton't blue, emeratel green hoop, quartered cap
The blue, and the properties of the p

Stack, black and yellow check cap

1.35 ADDISON OF NEWPORT NOVICE HURDLE BBC1*
(CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m 4f 110yds
Penalty Value £3,193 FORM GUIDE

760 and user groot and calered —

11 declared —

12TTING: 7-4 Sydney Twothousand, 109-30 Eastly John, 6-1 Pet Buckey, 6-1 Nordic Prince, 6-1

Nesley's Lad, 12-1 Bubbling Brook, Shropahire Gale, 14-1 Heighth Of Fame, Musike, 20-1 others

FORM GUIDE ickley, a runnar at Ascot on his second hurdes start, could wait be up to this task

with the stable back in great form. Another of interest is Hernrietta Kingiria Sydnay Twothousand, who was beaten only a neck by Boro Bow as Gowan Park a year ago. He is the type to relate the staying tip and the stable's horse go wet when thesh EASEY JOK-ER, a decant chaser over this trap, was good enough to who over hundles at Ayr on Bown 10 Day, it was a weak race, but Easiby Joker is in good heart and can dely the penalty with his fitness advantage.

2.05 ROGER ASTON NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) 25,000 edded 2m 5f Penalty Value 23,599

- 8 declared BETTING: 2-1 Bramblehill Chief, 5-2 Wisley Worder, 11-4 Seletan, 7-1 Barton Black, 12-1 Captain
My Captain, 14-1 Dawn Invader, 20-1 Crocknamohill, Ediptic Moon

2.35 PETER J DOUGLAS ENGINEERING LTD SELLING HUR-DLE (CLASS G) £2,000 edded 2m Panalty Value £1,637 18 declared
 BETTING: 11-4 Act El Act, 3-1 Bots Acre, 4-1 Sylvan Sebre, 7-1 Cromsboo Crown, 9-1 Test Match, 12-1 Exclusion, Nazari, 14-1 Lady Silk, Borny, 16-1 Cool Westher, Matchael, Square Deal, 20-1 others 3.05 BRAKE BROS. FOOD SERVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 edded 2m Penalty Value £2,736

- 9 dectared Minimum weight: 10st. Ince hancicap weights: Circulation 8st 12b, Pegurine 9st 11b,
BETTING: 7-2 Robins Pride, 9-2 in Thain, 11-2 Astral Invasion, 6-1 Days Of Thunder, 6-1 Weels
by, Shillelegh Calt, 10-1 Pegurarine, 12-1 Who's To Say, Circulation 3.35 MEAT AND TWO VEG HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) 25,500 added 3m 110yde Penalty Value £3,778

- o occurren -BETTING: 11-4 Tampeton, 7-2 Ferrarray Peta, 11-2 Worts Price, 6-1 Rayale Angele. 7-1 Native Field, 9-1 Prussia, 12-1 Castle Secret, 14-1 What's Your Story - 8 de

PUNTERS' GUIDE

- 11 declared Meanum weight 7st 16th True handles weight Fabricus Moto 7st 9th
BETTIME: 4-1 Night City, 9-2 Quiet Arch. 11-2 Massyar Seventeen, 6-1 Seiberry, Toujours Riviers,
10-1 Sea Darzig, Wotteshambles, 13-1 Fremier Darze, 14-1 Prince Darzig, Fabricus Mitoto, 20-1
Squint's Occasion
1937 Searmole: Starty 4-9 12 G Carter 9-2 it tay (C Cycer) down (2) 10 ran
FORM GUIDE

PORM GUIDE

NIGHT CITY, who returned to writing form in November when beating Statepack in a course and distance claimet, flooped at Southwell efferwards but no out a clear winner back over 13 furlongs here 12 days ago, making all to beat Tarry two lengths (Squire's Occasion tailed off). He is not harstiny treated off a 5th higher mark. Toujours Rivfers as a studying-on third to in-form Democrat lest time over the extended rare furlongs at Welverhampton. He has shown he handes Equirack in the past but this trip is stretching his stamma. On his first run since August, Quiet Arch was easy to back in Classic Find's th-furlong rate 12 days ago and gave encouragement running on into into severith of V, with Massiyar Seventeen 10th having made much of the running. Quiet Arch clays 12 furlongs and should be a diarge. This will stretch Massiyar Seventeens stamma. Pabulous Mitoto stays well enough, though, and has his first run on Equirack since going down by three-quarters of a length to in The Money over this trip in March (Wottashambles eight lengths back in fifth). Pramiler Dance was beaten eight lengths in third to Random Kindness at Wohrenampton last time. His recent writing has all been on Fitnesand-but his did score twice here in his younger days.

Selection: NGCHT CITY

[3.10] LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY HANDICAP (OUALIFIER) (CLASS D) (Div I) £7,000 added 7f Penalty Value £4,720 Pris, cark to be started start on cap 7 64315 BARBASON (22) (CO) (F L HE) G.L. Moore 66 C. 7 64335 BARBASON (22) (CD) (F L ME) G L Moore à 6 °C. Carrily Morris 6
Petures, cold steeves, green cap
6 55562 HALF TONE (2) (C) (Mrs G M immrerman) R Power à 8 9 Dans O'Nelli 3 B
Royal bite, white star, Chack cap
9 30040 TARLWIND (19) (R Ham) W Mis + 7 TI
Royal bite, vellow start, diabolo on steeves - 9 declarar - 1 partition - 11-2 Half Tone,
16-1 Tallwind, 12-1 Mr Majica, 14-1 The Wyandotte Inn, 25-1 Diesel Dan
857 3 and Carrins 6 A 5 Methworth bit he (C) Morral (Tawn 5 9 ann

1997 Royal Cartion 5 9 4 S Wintworth 3-1 lav IG L Moorel drawn (S) 9 ren FORM GUIDE SPEEDY CLASSIC taked by a head to peg back Apollo Red in a su-furling handicap on his latessit run on 28 November and can go one better despate never having won off such a high mark Apollo Red boosted that form by beating Palacegate Touch a length here still last morth, with Half Tone south. Half Tone has been steachly corring to hand and found only Pageboy too good here (eff) on New Year Day. He has wer to win beyond five furliongs, though. Barbasian has not been running badly and had the Majlica betind when fifth to Banghal last time but he is sail paying the penalty for his successful spell early last year Tertium has won just twice from numerous contrigs, but he has plenty of ability and is one to note on this debut for Gay Kalleviay and first run on Equipack Tellwind has dropped to a good mark, while The Wyandotte Inn should have been refreshed by a break since August.

Selection: SPEEDY CLASSIC

3.40 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY HANDICAP (OUALIFIER) (CLASS D) (Div II) £7,000 edded 7f Penalty

•		Value £4,720
,	24331-	BANZHAF (ZZ) (CD) (Styan Pernot) G L Moore 5 TO
-	03423-	STOPPES BROW (29 (C) (D) (BF) (C J Pernol) G L Moore 69 0 Candy Monts
		BILLE FLYER (97) (CD) 46 Scott) A Ingram 5 9 8
1		VICTORY TEAM (22) (C) (D) (A J Lavele) G Saiding 695 S Diowne
-		DELTA SOLEIL (54) Airs T Cross) V Soane 69 2
i		SCISSOR RIDGE (15) (CD) (Coraci J Smith) J Endger 6 8 3 F Norton 1
3	.0001	REDOUBTABLE (8) (D) David W Oregraph 9 Cheptran 7 8 11
ė		(VOR'S DEED (15) (CD) (A P Gmfm) Gay Kelevary 5 8 7 . A Whelem (3) 2 6 declared -
		11-4 Redoutstable, 4-1 Banzhat, 6-1 Sciesor Rudge, from Deed, Stoppes Brow, 7-1 Delta

SORM, 8-1 Victory ream, 16-1 Brite rayer 1897 Step On Degas 4 9 2 D Gmitos (5) 5-1 rM Fetherston-Godfey, chavn (5) 8 rac

1	£3-11	FRENCH HOLLY (USA) (21) IK Road) F Murphy 7 77 A Thombox Dark bus, maroon smiles
5	1-111	LAREDO (29) (Actael and Gerry Wordesen N Chance 5 th 7
5	n	LORO JIM (21) (Ms S Y Thomas) J Oct 6 ft 7 M A Fazgerald Purple, yellow diamon's on sheves, quenered (30)
7	5-11	LOND OF THE RIVER (15) (D) (B Y Stylean-Brown) O Sherwood 6 ft 7 J A MicCarthy Rays' blue, park expenses, park cap
5	1,15	ROWINGTON (29) (Mrs. Jane Lane) D. Nicholson 7 Ti 7

FORM GUIDE FRENCH HOLLY, unheaten over timber can carry on the good work. Laredo landed bumpers on his single start last ferm and on his reappearance and went in over timber at Merket Resen, following up at Hersford Lord Jim has scored at Chepstow and Chelyenham and is no worse of their Easy Feelin, who was third to him at Presidury Park, Lord Off The Bing, after a seven-length Windsor victory, beat Arctic Camper a couple of lengths at Uttaveter but the latter, although 5to worse off here, was backward then and might improve enough to turn the form around.

Selection: FRENCH HOLLY

2.45 NEWBURY CONFERENCE CENTRE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £2,726

3.15 JOHN KERMODE 60TH BIRTHDAY NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS C) 25,500 added 3m 110yds Pensity Value £4,033 3-1 BELMOREBRUNO (19) (Mrs AJ Hartnert) U Pipe 6 71 4 . . .G Bradley | C. University | C. Carriero B | C. Carriero

- 11 declared -- BETTING: 5-2 Belmorbruno, 180-30 Fuffyama Crest, 4-1 Ivor's Fluder, 7-1 Brackenhilath, 16-1 Ivory Coaster, 16-1 Berbary Falcon, 33-1 others 3.45 WEATHERBYS STARS OF TOMORROW OPEN NH FLAT RACE £1,550 edded 2m 110yds Penalty Value £1,364

BETTING: 2-1 Durbury Plyer, 7-2 Departy Leader, 5-1 Erin Alley, 7-1 Party Leader, 6-1 Crooked stone, Young Thrustor, 12-1 Stagmen, 16-1 others

pointing on two attempts over fences.

BRAMBLEHILL CHIEF makes his debut for Herrietta Kright after a point to point we in May, 1995. He is lively to be ready for full account despite the lengthy layoff and this is not a fact race. Selaten liked the mud in his hundling days, but he has been a bit disappear.

Hill Handicap Hurdle at Sandown last time. He is unproven on this ground, though, and Bellator, not fully fit when down the field in the Sandown race, is an alternative.

1.45: RIVER MANDATE goes well Our Shadee may be the danger. on soft and looks back to form now that blinkers have been dispensed with. Top Javelin is the threat.

NEWBURY

1.15: NAHRAWALI ran his best

race yet when second to Major

Jamie in the competitive William

2.15: FRENCH HOLLY won easily on soft last time and looks like a top-class recruit to hurdling. UTTOXETER (on BBCI

if Newbury is abandoned) 1.05: SAIL BY THE STARS, who trotted up by six lengths over 3m at Lingfield on his most recent start, goes well in the mud and looks the pick of the weights. 1.35: SYDNEY TWOTHOUSAND,

who showed plenty of promise oo his only start over hurdles in Ireland, should be up to winning this. Easby Joker, with the crack claiming jockey Seamus Durack in the saddle, looks the danger.

2.05: WISLEY WONDER, who refused on his last start over fences, has schooled well at home since and, with his yard having turned the corner with a vengeance, is worth one last chance. Bramblehill Chief may be the danger.

HYPERION'S TV TIPS

LINGFIELD - 1.40: FRIENDLY BRAVE, in good form and still on a reasonable handcap mark, should be hard to beat.

2.10: SUPERLAO, lemently treated on his best form, has a handy low draw and should go close. Sharp Imp, who acts well on Equitrack, may pose most problems.

2.48: PRINCE DANZIG, who starts the year on a fair bandicap mark, will not be far away in an open race. Squire's Occasion may prove the most potent threat.

3.10: PALACEGATE TOUCH, course-and-distance winner who is in great form at present, will take some stopping. Tertium, well handicapped on his turf form, may be the main rival.

NAAS

2.20: MANHATTAN CASTLE disappointing over hurdles last time but previously a head second to Arctic Weather in the 2m 1f Grade Three Fortria Handicap Chase at Navan, can make the most of the 32lb he receives from Dorans Pride, who will find this distance on the short side.

	1988	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97
Fate of the favourites:	2	1_	2	1	1_	1	F	1/5/U	A	A
Wirmer's place in bettin	g: 2	1	2	1	_1	1	D	1C	Α	A
Starting-prices:	7-2	11-10	3-1	4-5	1-2	9-4	25-1	4-1	A	Α
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Profit or loss to £1 stak	e: Fav	ourite	5 +£	2.32 \$	Secon	d Pan	ourit	45 + 20	50	
Percentage of winners	placed	1st, 2	and o	r 3rd	In las	TACE	: 88			
Shortest-priced whener	: Chal	am (15	992) 1	-2						
Longest-priced winner.	Amoni	n (199	4) 25-	1						
Top trainers: No trainer	WS WO	n this	race	more	than c	nce i	the p	oast 10	year:	8

FIRST SHOW

Night City (Lingfield, 2.40), an in-form horse who is proved on the all-weather surface, is available at 9-2 with Coral - the Tote offer just 100-30.

Toujours Riviera, who is also in good heart, cao be backed at 7-1 with Ladbrokes - Coral and William Hill are offering just 5-1.

Wottashembles, who has been running over hurdles, is 12-1 with the Tote -- Coral and Ladbrokes go 8-1.

7-2 Bartriat Redoubtable, 5-1 Sossor Ridge 11-2 Nor's Deed, 7-1 Delta Soliet, Stoppes Brow, Victory Team, 12-1 Blue Flyer. - Ion Davies

Orsm C H L T							
elacegule Touch	7-2	41	7-2	4-1			
erbason	4-1	9-2	7-2	10-3			
pendy Classic	9-2	41	7-2	4-1			
riign	9-2	9-2	9-2	5-1			
of Tone	5-1	92	6-1	6-1			
r Majica	9-1	10-1	12-1	9-1			
Metro	12-1	17-1	12-1	10-1			
he Wyendotte in	20-1	24-1	20-1	14-1			
lend Dex	20-1	25-1	25-1	25-1			

Horae	C	Н	L	
Hight City	92	7-2	41	10-3
Manager Seventer	m 6-1	8-1	51	5-1
Gulet Antis	13-2	8-1	5-1	7-1
Toujours Hildera	5-1	5-1	7-1	11-2
Selberry	13-2	7-1	7-1	8-1
Sea Durnzig	9-1	10-1	10-1	61
Presider Dunce	12-1	11-1	12-5	10-1
Wolanbambies	8-1	10-1	6-7	12-1
Prince Danzig	14-1	0:1	12-1	12-1
Fabulous Micto	14-1	18-1	16-1	16-1
Squite's Occasion	12-1	184	14-1	16-1
Each way, a &	th the o	dot, pla	ces 1, 2,	3
C - Coral H - Willia	m Hill, L	Lachs	OKSK, T	- Trains
		_		

Lingfield - 2.40

Newbury - 1.45									
Horse	C	н	<u> </u>						
River Mandale	5-1	6-1	13-2						
Rull Of Data	7-1	32 .	32						
ANCERDROS	15-2	7-1	13-2						
Helcham Boy	6-1	7-1	7-1						
High Trix	6-1	13-2	13-2						
Morted Boy	6-1	7-1	6-1						
General Pongo	11-1	10-1	9-1						
Over The Deal	11-1	12-1	11-1						
Top Jessin	14-1	14-1	11-1						
Goldenowik	18-1_	24-1	16-1						
Sunley Bay	14-1	14-1	16-1						
Crecio la King	20-1	20-1	20-1						
Sister Stephanie	15-1	20-1	20-1						
Have To Think	25-1	25-1	25-1						
Each week a qual C - Corel, H - Wiles		-	.2,3						

naas

C - Cost H - William Hit L - Ladordes T - Total

2.20 BOYNE HANDICAP CHASE £8,000 edded 2m 3f Penalty Value £5,480 C4 31-711 DORANS PRIDE (27) (CD) (T J Doran) U Hourigan 9 12 0 -6 declared m weight: 9st 7fb. True handicap weights: New Co 9st 6fb, Second Schedust 9st 2fb, Dun Bell

But 95, Macalister 7st 5b.

Bu

RACING RESULTS

12.40: 1. ROBBO (P Niven) 4-6 fav; 2. Sen Francisco II 4; 3. Julesbox Jive 9-2 ran. 8 dot. (Nrs M Reveley, Seltburn) Totae: E140. DF: E340. CSF: £241. NF: States Casinos Boy. 1.10: 1. JYNJAM JOHNNY (P Niveri) 7-4 1.10: 1. JYALIAM JOHRNY (P Niver) 7-4; tav; 2. Rachael's Owen 9-2; 3. Cuthill Hope 7-4; f fax; 7 ran. 1/5, 28; (j. J O'Neil, Penrith). Toke: E2:70; 1:10, C150. DF: \$4.80. CSF: C326. NF. Arcie Sandy.
1.40: 1. SWEEP GENTLY (Forward Guest) evens fay; 2. Bustibitali Mor 33-1; 3. To-Day To-Day 9-4. B ran. 3, Ind. (Mas S Smith, Bingley). Toke: 52:0; 5180, E300, E700. DF: 57850. CSF: E3737.
2.10: 1. COOUI LANE (D Parker) 7-2; 2. Beactly Head 3-1 fax; 3. Mir Knitwit 8-1 6 ran. 14, 24, (J Dun, Henot). Tota: £460; £180, E2:70. DF: £440. CSF: £1269. Only three finished.

shed.
2.40: 1. CASH BOX (N Smith) 7-4 it iav.
2. Diddy Rymer 7-4 it iav. 3. Liniathen 3-1.
4 ran. 8, dat. (T Cart, Sathum-by-Saa). Tota:
52.70. OF: 52.70. CSF: 5501.
3.10: 1. SUNNY LETTH (A Dobbin) 6-1;
2. Kollaw 8-1; 3. Cottstown Boy 8-1. 7 ran.
52 lav King Of The Buren (laft. 7, 4; 6? Kinteith, Rosewell). Tota: 5560; 5220, 5330. DF:
517-0. CSF: \$43.47. Tricast: \$347.72. NR: The
Sty Pacter. Sty Pacte.
3.40: 1. RALLEGIO (I Jardine) 2-1 fav; 2.
Parlah 4-1; 3. Common Sound 9-4. 6 ran.
11. 14. |P Monteith. Rosewell, Tota: \$220;
\$180, \$170. DF: \$530. CSF: \$308.
Placespot: \$14800. Quadpot: \$30.40.
Places 6: \$3007. Place 5: \$48.5.

SOUTHWELL. \$\text{SOUTHWELL}\$.

12.00: 1. J\text{JBERESN (Mast Foustol) 5-1:}

2. Time Of Night 3-1; 3. Ring The Chief 11-1 10 ran. 5-2 fav Shontaine (Sth). 174, 7. (P Howing, Godstring). Tota: 5.70: \$2.00. \$160. \$2.90. DF: \$16,70. CSF; \$19,74. Theast: \$153.30. Trio: \$8440. \$12.00: (M Firmer) 16-1: 2. Yeoman Officer 100.30; 3. Joseph's Wine 10-11 fax. 10 ran. 4, nt. (A Kofswig, Newmarter). Tota: \$22.50; \$340, \$140, \$150. DF: \$42.20. CSF: \$182.42. Trio: \$31.90. NR: Lady Komarter.

1.30: 1. PLAN FOR PROFIT (Deen McKeown 6-4 kw; 2. Rembo Weltzer 3-1; 3. Pine Ridge Led 100-30 9 ran 4, 7/4, (M Johnston, Middleham). Tota: £300; £130, £130, £130, £170. DF: £510, CSF: £5178, Tno: £210, NR: Gen-DF: £510. CSF: £5.78. Trio: £2.10. NP: Genuine John.
2.00: 1. PIP'® ADDITION (T Sprate) 4-1;
2. I'm Tef 7-4 fav; 3. Happy Wanderer 11-2.
13 ran. 51-hd. 1½. IJ. Glover, Worksop). Tota:
£500: £120, £130, £210. DF: £3.80. CSF:
£1002. Tricast: £3.687.
2.30: 1. JULIES JEWEL (F Nortort) 10-1;
2. Just Another Time 5-2 fav; 3. Permises
8-1. 11 ran. -½. 1½. (M Chapman, Market
Rasen). Tota: £7.80; £2.40. £140. DF:
£13.30. CSF: £3.40. Tricast: £16.80. Trio.
£49.20.
3.00: 1. PSV. SUMDEL (A MCCarter) 4-11. 3.00: 1. REX MUNDI (A McCarthy) 11-8 lan; 2. Pictorns 4-1; 3. Head Gendener 6-1 12 ran. 2. 6. (P. Evans, Welshpoot), Total 2-40; EUG, EUG, EUG, EGT, ESTO, Tric: EB30. NP: Awateh. 3-30; 1. RONGUISTA D'OR (S. Downe) 7-1; 2. Dahnhimale 11-1; 3. Priendly Kolgift 7-1; 2. Dalwhizmie 11-1; 3. Friendly Kolgitt 6-1, 19 ran. 7-2 fav Sidney The Kidney (5th). 1; 2. (G. Ham. Axbridge). Tote: £710; £200. £260, £280. DF: £65.70. CSF: £8651. Tid-ast: £610.51. Tid: £14770. Placepot: £7190. Quadpot: £240. Place 6: £825. Place 5: £240. Newbury abandoned (waterlogged).

THE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 + LIVE COMMENTARIED RESULT NEWBURY 971 981 UTTOXETER 972 982 MUSSELBURGH 973 LINGFIELD 974 0891 261 970 Calls cost \$40 per primate, "LLS. pic. Screene \$1 802A 47

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Twiston-Davies a trainer of ability above question

Nigel Twiston-Davies does not shout about his successes and certainly does not need to at the moment as his results speak for themselves. A remarkable sequence of wins over the holiday period has re-established him among the top flight of trainers.

When he sees a reporter's ootebook or a microphone produced under his nose Nigel Twiston-Davies reacts as if he's come across some toxic waste. If you ask the trainer why he doesn't speak to the press he's more than likely to ignore you.

Twiston-Davies himself, however, cannot be ignored at the moment. On the morning of Boxing Day he was 19th in the trainers' championship with eight winners for the season, a six per cent strike-rate and £86,000 in earnings. His Cheltenham stable had been

morning he had leaped to sixth, Earth Summit had collected a Welsh National, Kerawi the Christmas Hurdle and Thursday had yielded a hat-trick. At times like this racing editors ask their men to have another go at securing an audience, My trump card here was Pe-

champion jumps jockey and assistant to Twiston-Davies. For reasons known exclusively to himself, Scu talks to me. "Whatever you do don't ring Nigel," Scu said. "Take him out to lunch." I thought this was a hit of an insult to a reporter of 20 years standing used to Davies's body is attempting to wheedling out words on the tele- escape from its clothing and you phone. But then Scu was right. bave to stop yourself trying to

weight. Nigel said he didn't to Paddington's duffel coat.

want to talk to me on his land, or anyone else's for that matter. "I don't do interviews," he said. who are probably very good at "But I will answer a few questions if you like." This raised an interesting distinction.

Twiston-Davies is not rude about any of this and it's not that he's shy. He just doesn't want to make a charlie of himself on most people have of him and the record. "I don't give myself the reality are two totally different chance to say something silly and see it in the newspapers the general impression seems to he following day," he said. "Some trainers don't come over too well on the television and say things that they regret afterwards. I prefer to let the horses do the talking."

This information blackout means that little is known about the secretive life of the Twiston-Davies. He is rather like one of those brightly spangled hutter-

BY RICHARD **EDMONDSON**

wreathed with virus. By this flies that exist uniquely in Sumatra. But if you wait long enough by the watering hole that is Th' Hollow Bottom in Guiting Power you can catch a glimpse of this easily startled creature. It will either have a lager or gin and soda in its hand.

Indeed, one of the disappointments of Nigel's press ter Scudamore, the former reclusion is that he appears like a bloke who might he good company. His face looks as though it has been dipped in a barrel of beetroot and his 40year-old physique has obviously collided with a few parties.

At the races, it always appears as though Twiston-Nigel Twiston-Davies is a undo his top button. He demonconversational Scrooge and strates that he is not going to be speaking to him is like trying to fooled by fashion gurus by wearget blood out of a hundred- ing something dangerously close that he's not approachable. "We've got an owner here called Fred Mills, who's from

Essex and not the sort of person you would imagine having a horse with a double-barrelled public schoolboy. When you see this ex-Radley schoolboy who doesn't talk to the press it rather creates the image of an unapproachable figure out of touch with the common

While Eton might be fa-

mous for producing young men

flipping a pancake through 180

degrees, Twiston-Davies is a

product of Radley, the trainer

factory. His name, upbringing

and manner lead many to mis-

diagnose him. "The persona

things," Scudamore said. "The

man, which is very much the opposite of what he is," Though he has trained from Grange Hill Farm at Naunton, Gloucestershire, since 1981, Twiston-Davies's

operation has only really swollen since Scudamore became his assistant on retirement in the spring of 1993. The talk at the time was that Scu had been smuggling home secrets from Martin Pipe's yard in his lunch box. It is an allegation that neither man denies.

Grange Hill Farm started this season with more than 80 horses. "We're one of the bigger yards in terms of numbers but we haven't got that many expensive horses," Twiston-Davies said. "The majority of our owners come to us as opposed to us searching around London or wherever for them. We're not very good at the PR side and most of our horses are from local people, who possibly haven't got as much money as others.

"Perhaps I'm happier dealing with that sort of horse, that it's not the end of the world should something happen to go wrong with it."

He won't admit this, but

old Twiston-Davies is. in fact, a hit of a worrier. Last week's salvo was deeply important to him, "It was very good for everyone's morale: for the yard. the owners, everyhody," he admitted. "And for my temper, ac-

"You can't overestimate the importance of that weekend." he said. "Nigel definitely felt the pressure during our had run. And he may not look like that type of person, but before hig

races he does worry about things. "He's very good with people. He's open and he wears his heart on his sleeve a bit. He does get wound up.

"Only about a third of horses ever win a race, so most of the time you're letting people down and that's quite hard. You're always ringing up friends and telling them their horse has got a cough or a leg and that's very difficult. That sort of pressure gets to Nigel."

Twiston-Davies can afford to

lot of that at his yard. Paddock: Unlike the chancers running plans at 3.00 in the actually manage to place a bet,

relax a little now, though. The

and jumping even better, thanks

largely to the specialist input of

champion eventer. Wisley Won-

der, in particular, has shown im-

Pedigree: About as much use in judging a horse as it is in the amount of red ink on her judging a person - ie. almost none at all - but fortunately for were honoured, win or lose, the people who run bloodstock Paget was, in a word, bonkers, auctions, this information has vet to filter through to the ranks of obscenely wealthy owners who keep them in husiness. Nor, for that matter, has any serious appreciation of genetics impressed itself on the well-paid "pedigree experts" who advise them - or if it has, they are keeping very quiet about it. The problem for anyone trying to breed a winner is that a horse's genetic "program" includes tens of thousands of different genes, many of which will exert at least some effect on its racing ability. No one, though, knows precisely which ones, how closely they are linked to others, or their relative importance, and while a champion racehorse has clearly done pretty well in the genetic lottery, there is no way of knowing the extent to which its ability will be passed on to any particular foal. In other words, the entire business of selling untried racehorses runs on little more than guesswork and hlagging, and a good thing too, otherwise we might not have enjoyed the marvellous spectacle of Sheikh Mohammed spending \$10.2m on Snaafi Dancer. who was too slow to race and. dow at the other. In the un- better still, impotent when he



Twiston-Davies: more party casualty than fashion victim Photograph: Phil Smith/Sporting Life

cording to my wife." Scudamore goes further.

asked the question. They do a ; tilude of New Mexico.

Durham can be stepping stone for Radcliffe

Many have been called but two too few have chosen to run in today's international crosscountry event at Durham. But the fields remain stronger, Mike Rowbottom reports

Britain's top cross-country exponents, Paula Radcliffe and Jon Brown, return to domestic action at today's Durham international event seeking to establish their credentials as potential medallists this sea-

Radcliffe, second in last vear's World Championships, is chasing a third victory in this event. The British 5,000 metres record holder feels she can strike gold in either the Commonwealth Games or European Championships this season.

"Winning is important for me, hut I also have to look to the long term," said Radcliffe, who has missed the Durham race only once since the LAAF World Cross Challenge event began in 1988.

Radeliffe's outstanding performance at the World Championships in Turin, where she missed adding the senior title to the junior version she earned in 1992 by a matter of a few yards, has seen her become far more horses are running beautifully; particular about her racing calendar.

"For that event I got my Ginny Elliot, the former world : preparations absolutely right." she said. "I restricted my competitive programme, went to alprovement in his schooling titude training, then won a recently and is considered the : silver medal."

yard's best hope at Uttoxeter After Durham, she will comthis infermoon. Last time, at pete in Belfast on 24 January Wincanton's final obstacle, the : and Tourcoing in France a week seven-year-old refused when; later before training in the al-

Her task today on a tough, undulating course overlooking Durham cathedral will be far from straightforward.

She faces the world 10,000 metres champion, Sally Bar- Nigel Gough, said: "Khalid is sosio of Kenya, and Catheri- extremely upset at what is gona McKiernan, the highly experienced Irishwoman who has won a four world crosscountry silver medals and will make her domestic marathon debut in London this spring after becoming the fastest anywhere else."

woman debutant at the event in October.

A further challenge on a mud-bound course could come from Irina Mikitenko, of Khazakstan, who is now hased in Germany,

"There's no way I'll be underestimating anybody," Rad-cliffe said, "Barsosio can be indifferent, hut McKiernan's past record is proof of her ability, whatever the conditions."

Brown, who chose not to defend his European title last month, has always planned to include Durham in his schedule - hut the same cannot be said for the leading names the organisers have attempted to hring to the field.

Earlier this week Kenya's world 3,000m steeplechase champion. Wilson Boit Kipketer, rendered himself ineligible after failing to pick up a visa that had been made ready for him at the British Embassy in Nairobi

And yesterday it was confirmed that the man who was to have taken Kipketer's place, the former world champion Khalid Skah, had withdrawn at the orders of his national federation.

Thomas Nyariki, Kenya's world bronze medallist, will now provide the main test to the Vancouver-based Brown, who will be running in Sheffield's colours. He will also be challenged by fellow Briton Keith Çullen. "You have got to expect the

unexpected in this game," said a race organiser - rather politely in the circumstances. Skah was ordered home by

the Moroccan Athletic Federation, who host this year's World Championships in March. The Moroccans are keen to end Kenya's domination of the event and want Skah, who lives in Paris, to prepare along with his team-mates. The Moroccan has twice

been the individual crosscountry world champion, winning the event in 1990 and '91. The Durham race organiser,

ing on and, as a senior international athlete and former Olympic 10,000 metres champion, he just cannot understand why he's being told that he cannot race in Durham or

BASKETBALL

lones returns to take over at **Derby as Tucker storms out**

The new year took a surprising al and partisan fans have been twist for Jeff Jones when he re- rewarded with just three gained his coaching post with the Budweiser League club Derby Storm, who had replaced him last summer with an American. Steve Tucker.

"I know they are talking to other people, but it will be fun helping out for the foreseeable future." said Jones, a 43-yearold naturalised American who made his dehut for Manchester Giants 21 years ago and played 16 times for England.

Tucker made a noisy exit this week, complaining of players and coaches with "out of control egos" and airing the widely held view that the Basketball League does not implement its own salary cap. But Tucker's retreat to

Mississippi to rehabilitate from the after-effects of a car crash last January follows a disastrous campaign for Derby. Their loyLeague victories, two of those against winless Watford Royals. Jones said: "There is talent

here but the players' confidence is shot to pieces, especially after losing five games in overtime. I watched them play a few times and there wasn't a lot of structure on court." Derby's opponents tonight

are Chester Jets, whose coach, Mike Burton, brings his continuing injury problems to the Moorways Leisure Centre. Brian Lloyd may return, but fellow Americans Ricardo Leonard and Sean Bell are out with knee injuries. Thames Valley Tigers face all

of their challengers for the League title this month and open a testing schedule at home to London Towers and away to Sheffield Sharks tomorrow. Richard Taylor

GOLF

Montgomerie's bogeyman

To land one of the two biggest started what until then had prizes in golf, Colin Mont- been a disappointing season and gomerie first has to beat the he went on, of course, to be South African Ernie Els, the crowned Europe's No 1 for a player who has twice denied him the US Open. The pair meet in today's semi-finals of the An- jor, Els beating him by one shot dersen Consulting World Match in Washington to bring hack Play Championship in Scotts- memories of Montgomerie's dale, Arizona, with the winner play-off defeat in Pittsburgh then facing either the US PGA champion Davis Love or Hajime Meshiai, of Japan, in tomorrow's final.

the final four by winning the European qualifier last May, defeating Jose Maria Olazabal, Sam Torrance and Costantino at The Buckinghamshire kick-come.

record fifth successive time. But still he did not win a mathree years earlier. The two met again during

the Alfred Dunhill Cup at St Andrews in October and the Montgomerie qualified for match ended all square. They did oot have to go to extra holes because South Africa had qualified for the semi-finals. "We'll carry this one on to Phoenix," Rocca. The Scot's performance Els said then. Now the time has

Bellator best bet but weather likely to win

The elements will decide today's course of action for armchair punters. Greg Wood on a valuable card hanging in the balance.

Officially the going at Newbury yesterday was supposed to be soft with heavy patches. Unofficially, it was wet enough to skim pebbles on the home straight after an overnight downpour, and the card planned for yesterday was immediately abandoned. Worse still, more rain is expected, and today's Mandarin Chase meeting may well go the same way.

If the meeting survives a 7.30am inspection, racegoers will have nine races to keep them warm, with two of yesterday's events being held over to today. If it fails the test, the BBC will cover three races from Uttoxeter, while on Channel 4 we have Dorans Pride in action at Naas and the dubious delights of Lingfield's all-weather Flat card.

In fact, punters should not have anything to do with the latter meeting, for no other reason that that the card is sponsored by Ladbrokes, who swallowed up Coral earlier this week and then had the cheek to claim that punters would be better served as a result. There are a total of 564 horses entered to run at. Lingfield today, enough to produce an impressive amount of manure but still nothing to compare to the pile which Chris

Bell, Ladbrokes managing director, served up on Thursday. There are still plenty of options when all the independent bookmakers are taken into account." Bell was quoted as saying. Whether or not he did so with a straight face went unrecorded.

Lingfield is, in any case, a very trappy card, whereas if Newbury goes ahead both the Mandarin Chase and Challow Hurdle are fascinating heats. Ability to act in the mud is

essential and there are several runners with just such an affinity in the Mandarin. However. one of them is Sister Stephanie.

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Wisley Wonder (Uttoxeter 2.05) **NB:** General Pongo (Newbury 1.45)

whose attitude deteriorates by the race, which leaves River Mandate and ANC Express (1.45) to consider. The latter is the better bet as be may be open to rather more improvement.

The Challow Hurdle brings together some of the most promising young hurdlers in the country. French Holly will be hard to heat, but Laredo (next best 2.15), the latest potential star from Noel Chance's yard,

could provide a little value. BELLATOR (1.15) is a difficult horse to train but ran well for a long way in the William Hill Handicap Hurdle at Sandown. On his earlier winning form, he is generously weighted.



GREG WOOD THE A-Z

Pace: A vital consideration when deciding whether or not the form of a race is likely to work out. If the runners are strung out like clothes on a line within a few moments of the start, it is a fair assumption that the pace is a good one, and quite simply. the better the pace, the firmer the form. A horse which emerges an easy winner in a fast-run race has almost certainly put up a performance of real merit, while at the other end of the scale, form recorded in a slowly-run race must always be treated with caution. The apparently impressive winners of such events have probably gone on to pay for more tacky exten-

who hang out at the sales morning. She would call book- remember to check both your rings (see Pedigree, below). punters who study horses in hours after the race in questhe paddock do at least know tion had taken place, and such that their judgement will be was her honesty - or perhaps put to the ultimate test with-

that particular puzzle will find themselves banned from every hetting shop in Britain within

than any other type of horse. suffering trainers to discuss likely event that you ever arrived at stud.

mains the only woman to have owned a winner of both the Derby and Grand National. Pari-mutuel: French for the Tote, and the only way you can bet on the nags (legally at least) not just in France, but in many other countries as well. This is a source of much irritation to British bookmakers, who would love nothing more than to break into the French PMU monopoly on betting and start milking the system in much the same way that they do over here. EC

something right, since she re-

competition law might be expected to offer them some hope, but so far at least, the clever people who run the Société d'Encouragement (French BHB) have managed to stop them in their tracks on the British side of La Manche. The only time most Brits will encounter the PMU is on their annual trip to Longehamp for the Arc in October, when it best described as a very long queue with frustrated punters at one end and a charmless bandit with a badge behind the scruffy win-

OF BETTING

P is for ...

sions to bookmakers' homes

in the next 20 minutes, a balance sheet - that the bets thought which can concentrate the mind admirably. A horse's physical appearance or but she must have been doing manner should only add to close scrutiny of the form. and never replace it altogether, hut once you feel that you have narrowed the field down to a handful of possibles, it never hurts to give them the once-over hefore placing a het. Ideally, they should be relaxed hut not dopey, shiny of coat, eye and shoe tmeaning that they are wearing light racing plates rather than heavy training shoes), and with welldefined musculature, particularly around the hackside. What paddock study will never tell you, however, is exactly what is going on in a horse's mind. The first punter to crack

Paget, Dornthy: One of the most eccentric and reckless gamblers ever to enter a betting ring and the owner of Golden Miller, five times the winner of the Cheltenham Gold Cup. Nocturnal unless she had a major meeting to attend, Paget would breakfast in the evening and retire at daybreak, often phoning her long-

B Storny

- 9 declared
Manatan weight Lost frue handcap weight Ceehayeli 9ar dib.

BETTING: 5-2 Forzáli, 3-1 My Sharandcab, 7-2 Boyzontowa, 5-1 More Champagns, 8-1 Leap in The Dark, 14-1 Northern Flash, 16-1 Current Mony, 20-1 Braydon, 50-1 Ceejayeli

2.55 OUEEN'S STAND HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3m F 6-01 LINDEN'S LOTTO (16) G Actracts 6 11 12 ... A Dobbin C 205 RUSTIC AIR (14) J Fix:Gerald 11 11 6 ... P Niven 2 7-1 CATS RAW (35) J Upcon 10 11 5 ... R Supple 1-1212 WISE ADVICE (18) (C) M Hammond 6 11 3 ... R Garatty 30 CP3 D'ARBLAY STREET (5) W Kemp 9 107 R McGrath (5)

SETTING: 6-5 Linden's Lobo, 100-30 Russic Air, 4 D'Arbiay Street, 15-2 Cats Run, 10-1 Wise Advice 3.25 FIRST OF MANY INTERMEDIATE OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) \$1,500 2m

CASTLE CLEAR (S9) (D) (BF) Mrs M Reveloy 5 11 11 ... P Niver THREE FRANCS (26) (CD) M Hammond 5 11 11 ... P Niver SAYONARA (65) N Crambertan 5 11 4 B Story JUST HUSH 9 Noon 5 10 3 C MeCommank 6 MILL 8EE (26) W Reed 5 10 3 G Pryam (5 THORTERDYNES LASS A Whitens 5 10 3 A Dobbid DOUBLE FIRST W 5 M Turner 4 10 1 J Power (7 Noon 6 C Thromank NEW DAWN C Thomson 4 10 1 - B declared 9ETTING 4-7 Castle Clear, I 1-4 Three Franks, 8-1 New Dawn, 8-1 Double First, 16-1 Thortardykes Lass, 20-1 Just Hush, 40-1 others

MUSSELBURGH

HYPERION 12.25 Big Target 12.55 Its Grand 1.25 Eden Dancer 1.56 Best Of All 2.25 My Shenandosh 2.55 Linden's Lotto 3.25 Three Franks

4.30 LENGER & LORUS J.23 THERE IT all the GOING: Good (Good to Soft in places).

• Right-hand oval course with light turns.

• Course is 5m E of Edinburgh on A1. Bus link from Edinburgh station 5m. ADMRSSION: Cab Ft2: Tathersals 55 (OAPs and underloyed 23). Accompanied under-10s free. CAR PARK: Free.

• LEADNG THAMPERS M Hammond 27 III (8476). J H Johnson 6-10 (17076). PMicotelin 13-68 (817%) Mrs. 3 Bradburne 11-87 (125%).

• LEADNING JOCKEYS: B: Storey 13-18 (175). P Micotelin 13-65 (817%). A Doobbin 12-94 (1239). R Garriery 10-50 (20%).

• FAVOURITES: 105-256 (917%).

BLINGERED FRIST TIME: None. 12.25 MAC MERRY MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 4YO 2m GELASS E) ES, DOU BROSE 910 201

BE TARRET (FB) R Alen 1 5 B Storey
DESTRONLAD (2) W Henry 1 5 C BeCommitt (5)
HIMPHRETE (FR) J Howard Johnson 11 5 A 5 Smith
KMBLONIK (FR) (45) W G M ILME 11 5 P Bloom
LIMPAK (BSGFI) (65) 18:3 M Rowly 11 5 P Bloom
REDB (91) G M Moore 11 5 C Begins
SALTAMANCO (7) N Wegott 11 5 M Foots
TRICKNIMM (46) M Harmond 11 5 N Horocitz (7)
TRICKNIMM (47) M Harmond 11 5 R Gently
TRICKNIMM (47) M Harmond 11 5 R Gently

10 65 BOLLERO (14) J Berry 11 0 BETTRIC: 11-4 Trooper, 3-1 Lurpek Legend, 9-2 Big Target, 11-2 Bollero, 7-1 Reeds, 8 Hibernato, 14-1 Krabiconik, 25-4 Ticknisma, 50-1 others

12.55 NEW YEAR CONDITIONALS SELLING H'CAP HURDLE (CLASS G) 53,000 3m

1.25 MUSSELBURGH NEW YEAR NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m

BETTING: 3-1 Eden Dances, 4-1 Master Savard 9-2 Broctone Bay, 11-2 Adametic, 8-1 Supreme Soviet, Royal Crymson, 14-1 Nooran, 25-1 Falcor's Flama, 86-1 Political Mandate 1.55 JOINT RACE COMMITTEE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m

-6 declared -BETTING: 7-4 Best Of All 3-1 Sameban, 7-2 Quango, 8-1 Contraîtie Political Tower, 12-1 Elpidos

2.25 BLACK BUN NOVICE H'CAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,500 added 2m 4f



ROWBOTTOM

ON FEELING BAD ABOUT THE LONDON MARATHON

When did you first feel guilty about not running the London

My initial experience of that familiar sensation occurred back in 1982, soon after the mass-participation event had taken its grip upon the nation's collective imagination.

It was a sunny March morning, and I was out running near my home. I had reached that satisfactory stage where the sweat was on me and the legs were moving without com-

An elderly runner approached. He was wearing one of those aerated shirts which resemble the section on a grater for nutmeg or carrot; and he had across his forehead a broad red sweathand.

As we drew closer I noted two further details. He was do- derogatory. As he passed, howing a funny, hreathing-type thing - all rhythmic and deliberate. And he was travelling

> Upping my pace, I prepared to exchange the tradi-donal greeting of those who meet in such circumstances a nod of the head, maybe a clipped "Morning."

So when he enquired: "Doing the London?" I was, as it were, caught on the wrong foot. I realised immediately what my response should be a comradely "Yep!" Or even better: "Afraid so. Westminster Bridge or hust!"

The actual response - "No" possibly lacked a little in wit. But it had an effect.

ever, he seemed to be carrying himself with just a touch more conviction, moving just a shade

I, in contrast, felt the carth tugging me down. I began to be aware of a pain in my side. I began to wonder if the section of the path I had reached was actually uphill, in real terms, even though it did not appear so. Could such a thing be possible? If all the surrounding topography, by some freak of nature, conspired to create

more easily.

that effect? Or was it simply that I was feeling inferior?

Somewhere in that sudden deflation, guilt was playing its part. Similar emotions troubled on our break, he would already strivers negotiate the long, fags, ostensibly to cheer the Marathon. Cheers.

when a colleague was preparing to run the event.

Dave Bedford, Britain's jack-the-lad world 10,000 metres record holder in the 1970s, once said the hardest part of his training was getting out of the

I always thought Bedford was making life unnecessarily difficult for himself on this count. If the front door was such a problem, why not simply use the back door in-

But no such weakness afflicted my friend, who was unwavering in his dedication to running 26 miles, 385 yards.

By the time the rest of us had sloped off to the canteen

Embankment, or Blackfriars Bridge, or however far it was he managed to get during the

one-hour break, breathing in the fresh night air, at one with himself, working towards a With his gaunt cheeks and serious Mars bar habit - this

was a man making maximum

use of his time and ability. And

as we sat and stuffed our faces. Marathon guilt, though, occurs in its purest form on the race route itself. And the best

place to observe it is the road-

The killer stretch of the London event comes at mile 16. when the 30-odd thousand

My inquisitor said nothing me a couple of years later be pounding his way along the windswept loop around the gallant foot soldiers onwards. Isle of Dogs.

There is naught for comfort here other than the occasional hrass bend and the ragged cheers of those who dot the

Often, you see runners reel exhaustedly from the proceedings here. Perhaps they are simply stunned by the realisation that, as the Marathon race literature points out, Canary Wharf has 4.4 million square feet of office space and is constructed with 10 different types of Italian marble.

But these individual dramas only serve to beighten the uneasy feelings which nag at

The problem with runners is this: they make everyone else.

by definition, a non-runner. All those who stand and watch, whether they like it or not, are mutely challenged by what they witness. They tip their ash, and stare into their glasses, and mutter their traditional speaking parts: "Keep it going!" "Cheers!" "Hnptwo! Hup-two!" "You're all

And the real giveaway: "I could do that." O drinkers at the Ambivalent Arms, nursing your beer and your regrets... But what has all this to do with the New Year? Very simple. those who gather on the puh Every year, without fail, I reforecourts clutching drinks and solve to run the next London

Eat sandwiches in Jaws while 40ft monsters spit in the background

ing signals from Internet, satellite and Hawaiian soothsayers and the No 1 wave measuring buoy off Kauai vandalised, and with the North Shore rumour factory continuing to churn out ever taller stories of giant waves just over the borizon, the arguments rage on as to the exact whereabouts of the higgest wave.

Just about all coastlines in the world have their proponents, from Fiji through Easter Island to Iceland, that the best break in the world is to be found in Peru, at the end of a 10-hour trek through the jungle, and the only problem is you bave to be equally adept with machete and board. But, even though San Francisco (and specifically Mavericks) is avowed to have been the main beneficiary so far of El Niño, the real pulled in." debate boils down to a play-off between North Shore (Oahu) and Jaws

X", adjacent to prime windsurfing

treme 30-40ft range, il was once considthe advent of tow-in bas changed all that. Among the élite bigwave surfers, a jet ski (with a driver), a towrope and a slimmer, shorter, more manoeuvrable board, has become standard equipment. The addition of a few hundred borsepower to the usual couple of arms, sling-shotting the surfer on to the face of otherwise unmakeable waves (and then leaving him to

ANDY

MARTIN

NEWS

FROM

THE

NORTH

SHORE

his own more traditional devices), has made accessible what Mark Foo called "the unridden realm". Thus Jaws has recently usurped the limelight in magazines, videos and, most recently, a glossy coffee-table book.

The advantage of Jaws over the North Shore outer-reef "cloudbreaks" is that it has a deep, tranquil channel where you can sit out beyond the shoulder and eat sandwiches while 40ft monsters are spitting in the background. But now the hacklash has begun.

"Real Men Paddle In" is the explicit banner of Dan Merkel, veteran surf photographer and cameraman, the man who made John Milius's classic surf movie Big Wednesday hig (mainly with fontage of Pipeline and Sunset), and who has just returned to the North Shore from Jaws. With the K2 Big Wave Challenge throwing the spotlight back on traditional paddle-power, Merkel was getting a burriso at Cholo's in Haleiwa when he came out as a powerful adversary of the Maui tow-in crew. "There's eight of them. And they're afraid of a real contest. They're worried they're going to come in second. They won't be king of the hill anymore.

For the past two years, various sponsors - from Coca-Cola to Sony - have been trying to set up a 30ftplus tow-in contest at Jaws, based broadly on the 20ft-plus Eddie Aikau at Waimea Bay model. But the plan has run into a lot of local opposition. The Jaws Eight have staked out the spot and tried to squeeze out any would-be claimants. as I get my big wave pictures in, I'm "They think they own the place," complains Merkel. Dave Kalama, one of the eight, has gone on record In Outside magazine) as saying beach'll be empty, you'll see. I'll have that (a) this is the Everest of big the place to myself."

With promising 10-15ft swells in- wave spots, and (b) the place is too creasing in frequency, with conflict- dangerous for a contest. He compares a wipe-out there to being beaten to a pulp by Bruce Lee and then finally stomped on hy a Sumo wrestler for good measure. And he claims to be acting out of purely altruistic motives in blocking the

"That's all hull," said Merkel. Tow-in has actually made surfing safer. The risk factor is reduced whether you're at Jaws or not. OK, a wipe-out is still a wipe-out. But the A passing Irishman assured me real danger in surfing is not from the wave you're on - it's from the wave coming up outside. If you're out of position, then the next wave is going to slam you. With tow-in, that never happens. The jetski just whips you out of there in a second. Anyone - anyone who knows wbat they're doing in big waves - can get

Merkel argues that the quality of surfers at Jaws is not proportionate to the quality of the wave and Jaws, formerly known as "Spot is actually lower than on the North Shore. "They're mostly old windvenue Hookipa, has only sprung to surfers I shot 12 years ago. That's prominence in this decade. Break- why they want to keep everyone else ing just a few times a year in the ex- out, so their little secret doesn't get

Tow-in is the producing an impressive but unearned inflationary supplement. And it's true that, hanging on to the back of a Yamaha wave-runner, I was relatively happy to get in among the huge stuff, although I nearly had a heart attack when the engine stalled. I should add, to be fair. that I've also seen a tow-in guy nearly have his leg amputated after he got tangled up in the tow

rope in a big wave wipe-out. There is a suspicion that at Jaws the frenzy of publicity has gone to the surfers' beads. A fan of Laird Hamilton (another of the Eight) once said to me that "He makes Brad Pitt look like a turkey." And now Hollywood has cashed in on this photogenic quality of both wave and wave rider by producing a full-scale feature film, In God's Hands, due out early in 1998, starring Jaws and the Eight and revolving around the adventures of a tow-in crew. Merkel is predictably scathing: "It had better have some-

one who can act in it, too." But what really riled Merkel was that the Jaws Eight were demanding a percentage from photographers for taking their pictures. "I'm never going to pay anyone a cent for putting them on the cover of a magazine. Their already paying them. They ought to

be paying me." There's long been a symbiotic relationship between surfers and the photographers who immortalise their ephemeral aerials and off-the-lips. The irony is that just as the tow-in heavy mob have been seeing off potential rivals, so too Merkel - the champion of the open society where Jaws is concerned also has his own final solution to the population explosion problem among photographers: "There's way too many goofballs these days. Real Men Used to Focus, Now they're all using automatic. As soon going to send them to the magazines for free. It'll burn out the opposition. This time next year, the



Day trippers: Lawrie Smith, the skipper of Silk Cut, is joined by ex-Scotland rugby captain Gavin Hastings on a training run in Sydney Harbour

Conner takes over as Toshiba skipper

The biggest name in ocean yacht racing has decided to show the rest how it is done in the Whitbread Round the World Race.

Dennis Conner is tired of seeing Toshiba among the also-rans, but as stuart Alexander reports, it will take all the American's skill to make an impression on the outcome of the fourth leg from Sydney to Auckland

which starts tomorrow.

Speak it softly, or the words will come back to haunt you, but, as Dennis Conner adds his presence to his Toshiba campaign, taking the helm away from Paul Standbridge, there is a pattern emerging in the Whitbread Race. If this leg hardens the trend, then the struggling syndicates are going to look more like desperate football clubs than dashing ocean racers.

There is not only a gap opening up between the top four and the other five boats, hut also between the top two, Paul Cayard in EF Language and Knut Frostad in Innovation Kvaerner, and the second pair, the quietly quick Gunnar Krantz in Swedisb Match, and Grant Dalton in the weathersensitive Merit Cup.

By the time the fleet arrive in

sprint from Sydney they will have covered half the total of 31,600 miles and accounted for 45 per cent of the points, which is why Conner, the fourtimes America's Cup-winner and Olympic hronze medallist, may have

thought it is time to make his move. His boat, Tashibs in seventh place after three legs - was initially captained by the New Zealander Chris Dickson, who quit after a disappointing first leg to Cape Town led to a falling-out with Conner. he did not want to disrupt the crew

OCEAN

Distances snow nautical miles

Leg Five 6,670 mile

Auckland after a five-day, 1,270-mile Dickson's successor, Standbridge, is if they were doing well, nor did be unable to persuade Torben Grael to now listed as co-skipper.

> The 55-year-old Conner, Toshiba's syndicate chairman, has mon- er, after being third on the second itored progress by computer, but no longer. A veteran of the 1993-94 race, in which be co-skippered Winston on just two legs, be kept bis hands on anothernest quiet that the last moment. Under race rules. teams have up until 24 hours before the start of each leg to name their full crew. He had earlier said that

a criticism of Standbridge. Howevleg to Fremantle, Standbridge was sixth out of nine in the tight finish

to the third leg to Sydney Conner will not be the only new face abound Toolsha now that the Australian Barney Walker, who had a disagreement with Frostad in Fremantle, has been recruited for bis helming talents.

Whitbread Round the World Race

Frostad, meanwhile, having been

want any move on his part seen as do a second leg, welcomes back to Innovation, Robbie Naismith, who sailed the first leg, and another Kiwi, Tony Rae.

With two leg wins under his belt, Cayard is now the clear favourite to win the race. EF Language is a good, all-cound boat, whereas, for instance, Dalton's Merit Cup is best at light to moderate off-the-wind work. Dalton has dropped the Italian Paolo Bassani and replaced him with Tom Dodson - the crew's

10th New Zealander. The crew on board the British boat Silk Cut are determined to reach New Zealand first. "It will be quick and hopefully we will have . plenty of hreeze," said their skipper, Lawrie Smith. "We have to do well:

- we have something to prove." The new dark horse is George Collins' Chessie Racing, where Paul Svan Dyke replaces the injured Rick Deppe. Collins has not only persuaded John Kostecki to: stay for the next leg, but will have top match racer Gavin Brady along as well. One thing is for sure, there will he no easy points waiting in

WHITEREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

Jürgen Kilnsmann, on the welcome from Spurs fans on his return to White Hart Lane.

a lot of swelling. It is a nightmare. All I want to do is play for Spurs and score goals. How can I do that when I am being told to do training which makes an injury worse? Les Ferdinand, Spurs striker, on his injured Mnights are few and far between thigh and coach Christian Gross.

 It sent a shiver down my back.
 In England, some players booze a lot. Those who have been out on the town and smell of booze the next morning are the ones I set out ■ The muscle is torn and there is after. I chase them during training and won't leave them alone. I can't stand those players who perform below standard because they choose to lead a wild life. Dennis Bergkamp, of Arsenal.

in football. You couldn't have a big-

ger honour. I'm thrilled to bits. Sir Tom Finney on his knighthood.

ATLANTIC

OCEAN

Can we play you every week? Coventry City fans to Manchester

United during their 3-2 victory. Nelson Mandela was as disappointed as I was. Ruud Gullit, Chelsea manager, on having to call off a meeting with the South African

■ Lest we forget, 96 supporters went to a match and didn't return home.

Manchester United newsletter warning that standing fans will be ejected from Old Trafford.

It's not over until the Fat Man spins.

Poster at Melbourne Cricket Ground during first Test against South Africa, on the slightly tubby Shane Warne. I have challenged our players to refuse their appearance money because, quite frankly, they don't deserve it. Andy Keast, Harlequins coach, on losing 38-40 to Bristol.

TODAY'S NUMBER 499

> have been knocked out of the FA Cup so far this season, going back to the preliminary round in August. through the four qualifying rounds, and the first and second rounds proper.

> The number of teams who

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TO RESPOND TO



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Bevan strikes late in day to iustify recall

Charter Hup South Africa 197 for 5 v Australia

> Michael Bevan revived the Australia bowling attack as South Africa were reduced to a crawl on the opening day of the sec-ond Test in Sydney yesterday.

> The part-time spinner, recalled because of his bowling on the spin-conducive pitch after being dropped as a front-line wickets as Shane Warne toiled for no reward.

At the close of a snail-paced scoring day, the South African skipper, Hansie Cronje, was the off-stump late in the day. on 56 and Shaun Pollock on one. Cronje took nearly four hours to score his half-century to Matthew Elliott at mid-off. off 189 balls as South Africa scored at just over two runs an

Embarrassingly for the SCG authorities, play started 30 minntes late because the inexperienced groundsman overwatered

Gany Kirsten was the only

wicket to fall in the shortened first session of play. He was beaten by movement off the pitch in Glenn McGrath's seventh over and edged to Mark Taylor at first slip to be out for 11 with the score on 25.

Bevan removed the recalled Herschelle Gibbs and Brian McMillan to end with figures of 2 for 41 off 20 overs.

Gibbs, who displaced Daryll Cullinan, who has a terrible bassman last year, claimed two record against spin and Warne in particular, scored his first Test half-century, making 54 hefore he was caught by wicketkeeper Ian Healy while slashing outside

Bevan then lured McMillan into hitting a full-toss straight Gibbs put on 97 for the

fourth wicket with Cronje. Gibbs, who hatted for 149 minutes and hit five boundaries off 137 halls, helped restore South Africa's fortunes after they lost two wickets in one over.

Greg Blewett's opening over half an bour after hunch, the 31st



Dorect, P. H. Auder, M. T. II. Ellicht, II. S. Bloweit, M. E. Waugh, S. R. Waugh, R. T. Ponting, M. G. Bevan, H. A. Healy, P. R. Peiffel, S. K. Warne, G. D. MoGrath, Water, (Eng.). Umphres: D. & Har (Aus) and P. Watey (Eng.).

lacques Kallis avoids a Paul Reiffel bouncer in Sydney yesterday Photograph: Reuters

of the innings with the score 70 for 1, brought instant results. With his second ball, Blewett trapped the opener Adam Bacher Ibw for 39 and three balls later Kallis was run out by a superb piece of fielding by

Ricky Ponting.

Crouje played an uppish shot to Ponting at short midwicket. Kallis loitered out of his crease and was slow to back up and Ponting's throw hroke the stumps with Kallis a metre short.

South Africa won toes SOUTH AFRICA - First Immings G Kirsten c Taylor b McGrath A M Bacher by Blewert Tendulkar axed

Sachin Tendulkar was sacked as captain of India yesterday because the selectors felt he could not cope with the pressures of Extras (04, lb2, w1, rb7) 14
Total (for 5, 97 overs) 197
Fall: 1-25, 2-70, 3-70, 4-167, 5-174,
Bowling: McGrath 14-5-31-1, Reffel 18-6-24-0,
Warne 22-5-46-0, Bevan 20-3-41-2, Blewert
13-5-30-1, S.R. Waugh 8-4-10-0, M.E. Waugh
3-1-5-0, Elicott 1-0-4-0.
To bat: 10-J. Richardson, P.L. Symcox, A.A. Doneld, P.R. Adams. playing and leading the side. Under Tendulkar, India won

three of their 17 Tests and 17 of 54 one-dayers, but as one of the world's leading batsmen he is certain to retain his place in the team under his successor, Mo-

SPORT ON THE INTERNET

How to handle tension – on the court and in your racket

The new tennis season starts on Monday in the Gulf with which has links to both men's section there is a piece on Crithe Qatar Open, where last and women's tennis. It also has year Tim Henman recorded his first ATP Tour victory and where he started his rise up the rankings.

Henman is at 17 and Greg Rusedski No 6 as the new year hegins with two weeks of minor lournaments before the first Grand Slam, the Aus-January 19th.

All this information and more is available on the official ATP site. Starting off with the complete calendar for the whole year, this comprehensive site has results, rankings, player details (although not yet updated to include 1997 figures).

Within the calendar there are links to weh sites for individual tournaments plus the Davis Cup. The female equivalent, the WTA Tour, also has its own weh site, which has many similar features. It does have its 1997 stats up to date and a hetter players' biography section linked to the rankings. It also contains more

A good central point to start exploring tennis sites on

links to racket stringing and tennis psychology.

In the former section you can find out that Pete Sampras likes his rackets strung at the top of the scale, around 74lb (33-34 kilos). Henman plays with a more moderate 62 to 67lb, whereas Rusedski prefers tralian Open, which begins on a considerably slacker tension. which paradoxically generates greater power, at 48-52lb. This comes courtesy of Jay's Custom

> Stringing. You can also compare the best stringing machines and look at the Racquet Stringing Machine Frequently Asked Questions page, where you learn about the differences between floating clamps, fixed

the player with the most weh sites, all unofficial, is Anna clamps and swivel clamps.

handle pressure situations, control adrenalin flows and learn about the link between peak performance and medium Many of the players, both men and women, have their own home pages, including Pete Sampras, whose site is run by CBS Sportsline and more interesting than the man himself. Of the women

Kournikova, the photogenic

sis Management - How to

Handle the Pressure. With this

week's news that Tony Blair is

having the tennis court at Che-

quers done up, perhaps he

would be interested in how to

Russian teenager. Edward Abelson

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Partie allim attractive, noisobiti-TIME ON MY HANDS
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professional temals. 42, oriental origin, anjoys theatre, opera,
classic music, gardening, cook-

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Ahractive Irish, prolessional male, 39, 5'10', dark looks & male, 39, 510, bank looks to dark brown eyes, positive am-tude to the seeks very attrac-tive, intelligent, Insh female, wicked SOH & intellect, for romance, London 125056 ARE YOU THERE? Professional male, 49, Middle-Eastern origin, likes reading, the countryside, dirting in, seeks independent female, 30-45, N/S, for inemdistry, possibly and professional markets. HANDSOME, ASIAN MALE

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ae in SPIRING
Inspired temale, sought by tall, black male student, 28, must like dancing, conversation, for possible memanoa, \$\frac{\pi}{2}\)-4355

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ATTHACTIVE at Single, easygong, professional male, 36, with VGSOH, seeks independent, attractive lady, for romance, SW area. 234741

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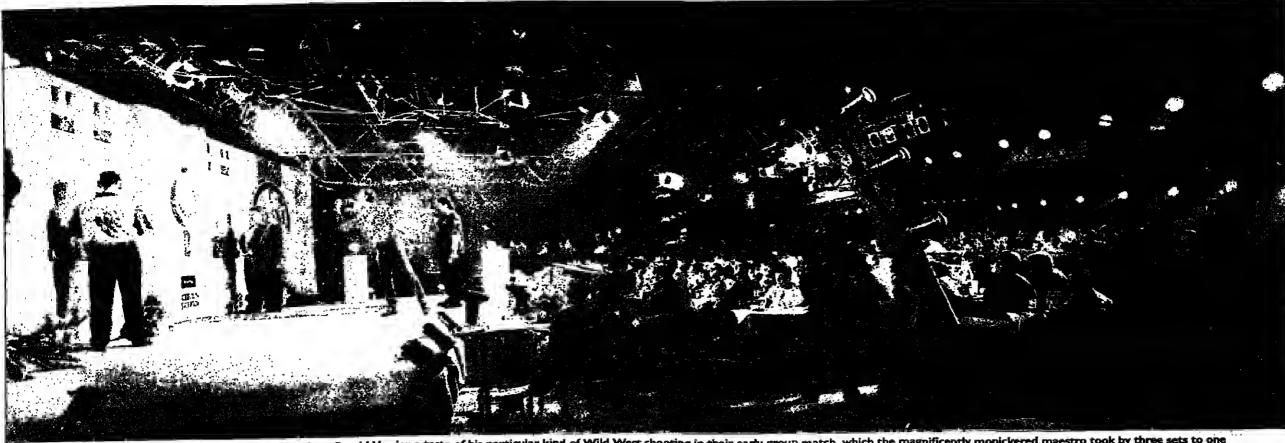
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18/PHOTO-SHOOT



Bob Anderson, 'the Limestone Cowboy', gave the American Gerald Verrier a taste of his particular kind of Wild West shooting in their early group match, which the magnificently monickered maestro took by three sets to one

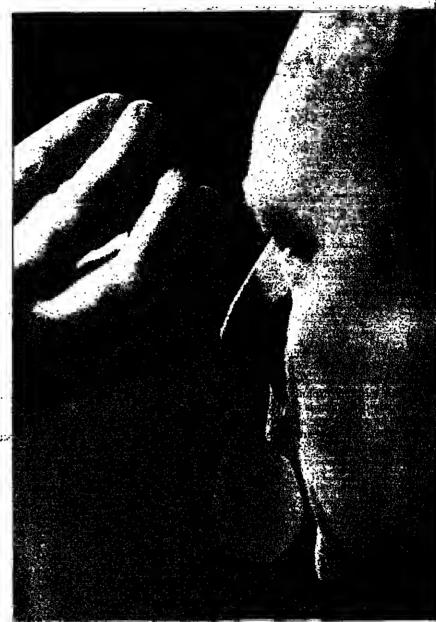


Double top's Circus

There was all the fun of the fair at the Circus Tavern in Purfleet this week as the Professional Darts Council's version of the World Championship took the spotlight. Despite all the probterns in the game, the atmosphere at this level remains a delightful orgy of over-the-top ochemania. Doubles and trebles are the order of the day though a lot of punters still seem to prefer lager or beer, while the players themselves tend to stick to water.

The professional sport dates back to the Welsh valleys in the 1930s, and whatever the beverage, the spirit is uninhibited, partisan yet free of rancour, proof that sportsmanship can flourish alongside passion. The artists of the arrow-which is made these days of sprung tungsten - are on target to win back an audience divided by the split with the British Darts Council. The semifinals and final take place today and tomorrow amid disco-style sound and fury in Essex.

Copies of these photographs - and any others by the Independent's sports photographers David Ashdown, Peter Jay and Robert Hallam - can be ordered



by telephoning 0171-293 2534. John Ferrell throws during his defeat by Rod 'The Prince of Style' Harrington a



PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID **ASHDOWN**





Anderson shows that the passion of the competitors is the equal of their supporters as he reacts to victory with undiluted delight



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Impping the tr

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loucester ar

and of the last 36 good Caracter to a Mi Telley's Botter Park and on And

W York on nations

- the stance is every hit as im-

portant as in golf, or, indeed, pole vaulting." It's that "in-

Then, as American viewers

deed" I like.



CHRIS MAUME SPORT ON TV

began in prehistoric times, when "the caveman chucked missed the warthog". Whether there was one of Waddell's an- party! cestors on hand to provide the commentary is not known, but it's a nice thought.

A trip through Waddell's mind is precisely that -- trippy, been conducting his annual collision with the English language at the World Championship (Sky Sports 2). The Circus Tavern in Purfleet, Essex, is the setting and Waddell is the ringmaster.

He was in full flow from the first afternoon, with John "The ample, when Harrington had Full Monty" Ferrell (clothed, sadly) taking on Rod "Prince of Style" Harrington ("dressed like a City gent who's just got a hundred grand bonus.")

inspired for being unexpected - Sid was away: "Whether you his spear at a tree because he'd live in New Orleans or Newcastle upon Tyne - this is the

His associate, Dave Lanning, picked up the sartorial theme: "There's a bar off Wall Street where you must wear tie and jacket - and that's unique man. The Voice Of Darts has in this world of darts." Que Sid's ultimate conversation-capper: "It's long time since a Weishman was kicked off the stage in an international for wearing a bobble hat and a flasher's mac."

joined, he said: "Yon've got to Sometimes it is impossible to keep track of the associations relax and be tense at the same his synapses conjure up. For extime. It's a paradox whether you're watching in Washington won one of the opening legs, Waddell came up with this: DC or Washington, County Durham - our viewers in "He's been having a good time America, welcome to the Cirof it actually - he finished the cus Tavern down by the Thames!" (this last bit delivered Daily Star crossword for the first As they entered to Blur's time in 10 years and he's gone in an atrocious Deep South

In Sid Waddell's world, darts "Song 2" -a choice all the more up and woke the wife." Sorry? accent filtered through his break up their sentences to spending our taxes to teach Harrington was making the native Geordie).

As Harrington struggled to early running -or, as Waddell out it. "Rod's starting like a reassert himself, Waddell's preoccupation with the New World jackal out of the woods that kept reappearing. "Another 60. hasn't had a meal for a week." As he faltered slightly - both would really chuck the garlic in the broth," he said. "He was hitwere going through "patches ting them cool as ice -- now he's the opposite of purple" - Waddell showed that he can come sweating like a donkey. It's up with the technical stuff as madhouse in Madison Avenue or here in Essex." well. "He's lost his line, has Rod

Waddell's weirdness is not just to do with the words he chooses (or rather, the words which choose him). His delivcry, with its arbitrary whoops and growls and flashes of seemingly Hitleresque ranting, is like one of those modern classical or free jazz pieces that explores the whole instrument. A few minutes of Waddeli and you feel you've experienced the entire range of the human voice. I've written before about how sports anchors learn to

avoid monotony. Waddell doesn't so much break his up as hang draw and quarter them. You wonder if perhaps he has Tourette's Syndrome.

Talking about John Lowe, for example, one word in the sentence was roared out: "Lobo showing that PROFILE, that would have graced an Etruscan coin." And back talking about Harrington, he said: "He's at his best when he's playing somebody in hot form and bringing out that EXTRA GEAR that the great Bristow talks about."

If your attention wanders ightly (and I have to confess to finding the sport itself only mildly diverting), you find yourself coming in on tantalising, surreal scraps - " ... Education Guardian ... Tonka toys

. tonsillectomy ... no need for

people to spell darts..."

It is hard, though, not to conclude that, as with John Motson, some of Waddell's best lines are minted in advance (if I'm wrong, a grovelling acknowledgement of his improvisational capacity). We demand spontaneity from our commentators. Knowing that Motson had probably spent sleepless nights cooking up his "The Crazy Gang have beaten the Culture Club" line, delivered on the final whistle of the 1988 FA Cup final, diminished its entertainment value. And how long did he spend thinking up the line about Buchan ascending the 39 steps of the

So, for example, although a line like, "If he grimaces any more he'll be developing fangs and asking for a Transylvanian the Labour government to be passport," was a splendid con-

Royal Box after the 1977 final?

tribution to the match between Keith Deller and Mick Manning, it had more than a whiff of the notebook about it - as did his description of an Anglo-Scots confrontation between Harrington and Jamie Harvey as "the Scottish broadsword

against the English épée". Still, it scarcely mariers when he comes up with lines such as this, oo Lowe. "When the kids have finished with the video games and they intend taking up the art of tickling tungsten, this is the man you could model yourself on."

Or my favourite, on the harrel-bellied Dave Mantey: "There's a charisma and body language about him, 'Give me men about me who are sleek." Shakespeare said of Mark Antony. And took what happened to him.

A gala performance from the Bard of the Oche.

Lions breathing life into Welsh dragon

After their glamour days of the 1970s and early 1980s, London Welsh had plummeted to the lower reaches of league rugby a decade later, it has been a struggle but, as David Liewellyn hears, they are on their way back. They are top of their league and today they entertain Gloucester in the Tetley's Bitter Cup.

The days when London Welsh, a dragon in exile, hreathed fire over all-comers, set matches mer League Five (South) they alight with glorious exploits were looking wohhly again and regularly drew crowds of 4.000 plus for a club game are they escaped relegation last long over. They disappeared season it was obvious they with the advent of league rug- needed some disciplined guidby. The game's headlong rush into the embrace of profes- to that end the consortium apsionalism heralded a sharp decline in fortunes at Old Deer

In their pomp they boasted no fewer than seven Lions, including the hrilliant John umphant tour to New Zealand Gerald Davies, JPR Williams, Mervyn Davies, Gcoff Evans One (effectively Division and Mike Roberts. At their Three) and the aim is to gain height more than 25 years ago they met Gloucester at the bar Premiership Two at the quarter-final stage of the inau- end of this season. "It could be gural RFU Club Knockout really bad for us if we don't win Competition, as it was then

tiav's visit of Gloucester in the snapshot of past glories. Dawes coach of Wales' 13-man team. a good day."

other half-dozen Lions legends. he is bent on restoring pride to a once great club.

A bleak midwinter last year culminated in the departure of the coach, Mike Gosling. A consortium fronted by John Taylor, the former Wales and Lions flanker, stepped in to reorganise the administration and running of the cluh and at the same time injected around £500,000 into the club coffers. A share issue raised a further £150,000.

While the Exiles had althe murky anonymity of the forsome 12 months ago. Although ance on the training ground and Union and League, to coach

Since his arrival in June, Welsh have hauled themselves things. They currently reside -in 1971 as well as John Taylor, albeit by a solitary point -at the yourself." top of Jewson National League promotion to the Allied Dunpromotion," admits Dawes candidly. "All our hopes are on go-

Three sponsors later, to- ing up. It's all or nothing." Griffiths has few doubts. He fourth round of what is now the has coached the Great Britain Tetley's Bitter Cup is a like a Rugby League side and is still

is now president of London He was a full-back with Llanelli Weish, and together with the before taking the route so many have followed, joining St Helens

> get," says Griffiths, who will not entertain the prospect of missing out on it, "Perish the thought," he declares.

"Although we have a difficult run-in in the second half of the season, I am optimistic of our

He is not so certain about how they will do against Gloucester, "We have injuries to key players," explains Griffiths, "and certainly the league ready hauled themselves from has to he our priority." Dawes echoes that and, with his sights on the league, says: "The most important thing is for us not to pick up any injuries against Gloucester.

Griffiths is understandably reluctant to pick players carrying knocks just to put up a brave proached Clive Griffiths, a for- beckons against Lydney the mer Welsh international at weekend after. For all that, he acknowledges the import of the fixture. To start the new year with a prestigious Cup tie against Gloucester and to find Dawes, captain of the tri- back to the hrink of better ourselves at the top of the table, well, you have to pinch

> For Dawes the arrival of Gloucester, "is a little hit of the past. A chance for reminiscence. It's good to have a senior club at Old Deer Park once again. Gloucester by tradition are one of the top clubs, whatever their struggles they have remained in the top flight. They bring good support.

"And while our chances of winning are not as good as theirs must be, we'll still have



Clive Griffiths, the former Welsh international and now coach at London Welsh. Since his arrival last lune, there has been a revival at the club, culminating in the leadership of the Jewson National League One and a place in the fourth round of the Tetley's Bitter Cup

will want to avoid is a repeat of glehold on things. It was a very the spectacle of that first ever dour match." Cup meeting between the two sides more than a quarter of a stilled an expansive style on the century ago. It finished 9-4 to club since his arrival, but he is members: "We were well beat- of that approach. "With our side out. But typical Glouces- take a lot of chances, particu- coaches of that golden era -

What Griffiths and the rest ter, they did us up front and at larly from deep. Most of the Carwyn James and Norman will come and watch a good of the London Welsh hierarchy half-back. They just had a stran- time they come off, but occa-

Griffiths has, at least, in-Gloucester and Dawes re- aware of the inherent dangers

sionally we have given away silly seven-pointers."

That is a legacy of his own playing days with Llanelli. "I was hrought up on expansive running rugby in the 1970s when and I think everyone enjoys the Wales were so successful. And en. I think, apart from JPR style of play we will always leak the philosophies that were spectators. Williams, we had our strongest points," he admits, "because we banded down to me by the

Gale at Llanelli, Leighton Davies at Cardiff Institute were of 15-man rugby. That is the way I think the game has to be played. I know the value of involving everyone in the game game far more, players and

"After all we are in the entertainment business now, People

hrand of football, which excites them. And," he hreaks of to chuckle, "certainly we have caused a few people's hearts to flutter these last four months."

A good show against Gloucester, capped by promotion back to the top flight where many feel they belong, should also get pulses racing again. The dragon awakes.

Gloucester armed with inside information about the Exiles

The storms of the last 36 hours have disrupted the weekend's Tetley's Bitter Cup ties. David Llewellyn discovers what's on and what's not

The heavy rain and gales have taken their toll with three Tetley's Bitter Cup matches called off and two further games facing inspections. The postponed ties will be played on 10 January, which at 12.30pm, to see if Worcester OF will cause League matches for can proceed against Bristol tothat date to be rearranged, and in a season top heavy with fixtures made tomorrow morning about the backlog can only add to in- another Sunday tie, that bedividual clubs' problems.

Leicester, last year's finalists, and Sale must kick their heels after the ties at Coventry and Moseley respectively were called off, and the waterlogged West Midlands lost another match, that between Rugby and Reading. There are doubts about Bath's tie at home to London Scottish, overnight rain is the worry, and if there is any there will be inspection at 8.30

by referee Steve Lander. There is another inspection, morrow, while a decision will be tween Blackheath and Saracens.

The third Sunday tie between Wasps and Harlequins goes ahead at Loftus Road. Surprisingly the majority of the Quins side who slunk off in shame afto Bristol in midweek, make the game. Andy Keast, their director of rugby, said yesterday: "I haven't wielded the axe for a couple of reasons.

"One, I don't have that many fit players left and secondly, I am giving a lot of people the opportunity to put right some of the things that went wrong against Bristol."

Injuries to centre Johnny Ngauamo (shoulder) and stand-Gloucester are taking no off Paul Challinor (dead leg) chances down at Old Deer after joining the Kingsholm Franklin's Gardens where

and Thierry Lacroix, white the feature in Monday's fifth-round scored a try in that match. So return to fitness of hooker Tom Billuns sees Paul Delancy drop to the bench. Wing Dan Luger ier the League defeat at home drops to the replacements' bench as do utility back Rob Liley and lock Luke Gross. The tight-head spot will decided later, it rests between Alan

Yates and Ricky Nebbett. Newcastle's match nt home to Second Division Exeter goes ahead despite the Allied Dunbar Premiership leaders discovering that their main stand had suffered damage during the Christmas Eve gales.

draw and have been doing their homework on London Welsh. The Exiles have lost just once in Jewson National League One, which they lead by a point, with the solitary slip-up at home

to Newbury. Former Gloucester coach Keith Richardson is in charge nt Newbury and Richard Hill, the present Gloucester coach, has been probing for clues as to possible areas of weakness in the Exiles' game. In addition Cup-tied wing Brian Johnson, who becomes a full-time Gloucester player Iomorrow

mean places for Tulsen Tollett Park. They are determined to crew on loan from Newbury. Gloucester are well armed with information.

They are resting their regular half-backs with Ian Sanders coming in for Scott Benton. while at stand-off Nick Osman replaces Mark Mapletoft. An injury crisis at hooker, Phil Greening (knee) and Neil Mc-Carthy (medial ligaments) are still not fit, means third-choice Chris Fortey starts the match, with Chris Hall, 18, oo the bench, London Welsh are without four key backs including stand-off Craig Raymond.

There is a local derby at

Northampton are still without former England lock Martin Bayfield and must also do without the services of England scrum-half Matt Dawson. Bayfield, a former Bedford player. has still not fully recovered from a groin strain while Dawson suffered a shoulder injury against Wasps and Saints do not want to put either player at risk

at this stage of the season. Bedford have included the South Africa flanker Rudi Straeuli, 34, in their squad as any assault on a referee hut to cover for Junior Paramore. Former Natal lock Shaun Platford is expected to partner Scotland international Scott Murray in the second row.

Five-year ban for Welsh lock

A player with the Welsh Districts club, Cambrian, has been banned for five years after an incident involving a referee.

Lock Wayne Morgan, 35, is alleged to have assaulted the match official, Emyr Adlam. during the Rhondda club's recent match against Glyncoch. The club condemned Mor-

gan, but insisted that there mitigating circumstances.

"In no way do we condone be fair to Wayne he was provoked [by a Glyncoch ptayer] throughout the match," Rob Richards, a spokesman for Cambrian, said.

New York on national guard

MIM from Edinburgh will de- League, and Julia Robertson, fend their title as the DTZ In- who is on boliday. Leicester will ternational Indoor Invitation also be short. Sarah Blanks. day at Worcester and Kidderminster, where New York, with six obyers from the US National squad, could provide a stiff test.

The Women's National Indoor League also starts this weekend. Slough, the Premier initially opted out of the Indoor

called into the England squad to replace Carol Voss, who has withdrawn, is on holiday and Kirsty Bowden and Purdey Miller have elected not to play.

Hightown open their programme against Doncaster and Olton Terraquest. The North to spend 10 days with the Bron-Division champions, open their club have recruited Clifton's cos coach, Wayne Bennett. campaign tomorrow at Crystal Denise Marston-Smith for the Palace against Leicester and indoor season and her drag Chelmsford. Slough will be shot at corners will be a powerful

RUGBY LEAGUE

Super League's rawest coach is World Club Championship last flying around the world to learn year. "We hope to come back at the feet of the most successful man in the game. Garry Schofield, the former Great Britain captain, will guide Hud- time to pack it in." dersfield next season without any previous coaching experience, but he and his assistant. Phil Veivers, are travelling Brisbane

Bennett, Veivers' brother-inlaw, has agreed to show the two men the methods which helped

from someone like that it's

third-round draw on Monday, inhibit her performance. despite the offer from several amateur clubs to play them in whether Pernilla feels she can world champion, Michael von

with a lot of new ideas." said . the Winter Olympics because of Schofield, "If you can't learn two hroken ribs.

Schofield's Brisbane blueprint Wiberg's Olympics in doubt

Pernilla Wiberg, the overall World Cup champion, may miss

SKIING

The fractures were revealed in X-rays taken on Thursday. The Super League champi- several days after the Swede ons, Bradford Bulls, have re- took a hard fall in a race in leased 20 players following the ! Lienz, Austria. "This is no fun decision to disband their reserve; at all," Wiberg said. Although side. Oldham are still left out of it is not dangerous to compete the Silk Cut Challenge Cup with broken ribs, the pain could

> "What will be decisive is go all out," her trainer, Agne- Grünigen. - Dave Hadfield ta Platter, said.

side, is looking to extend the flyson at Kraniska Gora today and tomorrow.

The Austrian all-rounder. winner of three races already this winter, hopes to extend his already commanding lead with victory in today's giant slaiom. The 25-year-old former bricklayer will face tough competition from the event's reigning

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Steelers reinforced by Bettis

The men's overall World. The Pittsburgh Swelers stand in yards in New England's 28-3 win Cup leader, Hermann Maier, the way of the New England Pa- over the Steelers last season, triots' possible return to the Suing start he has made this sea- . per Bowl today when the two teams meet at Three Rivers Stadium in the American Football

Conference play-offs. Pittsburgh, eliminated from the post-season play-offs in humiliating fashion last year by rushing attack should receive n the game-winning field goal. boost with the return of Jerome

In the National Football Conference play-offs, Randall Cunningham and the Minnesota Vikings go to San Francisco after their last-second, 23-22 victory over the New York Giants. Cunningham threw a touchdown pass in the final two minutes bethe Pats, are rested and their fore taking Minnesota forward for

San Francisco, meanwhile, Bettis from injury. Their rush will be without their injured rundefence is the best in the NFL. ning back Garrison Hearst. But However, it will be tested by the 49ers' defence makes the - Peter Frisch : Curtis Martin, who gained 166 club firm favourites.

JAVI00 1360

New Year, new script. Celtic found the key to the door of the Rangers defence to record their first win in the Old Firm derby for 11 games, yet the form of Andy Goram, the Rangers goalkeeper, was such that it took two goals of stunning quality to give Celtic the victory their overall play deserved.

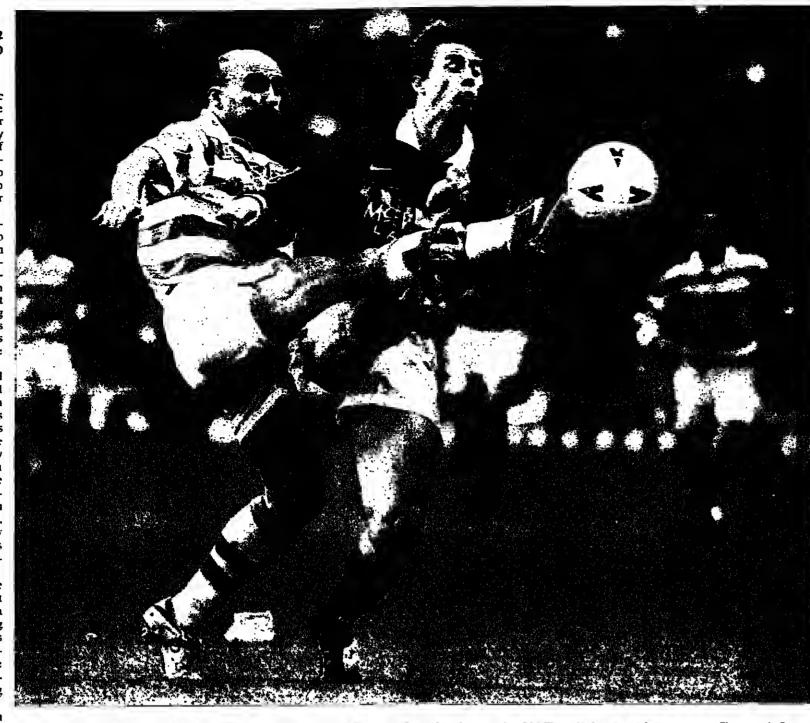
Craig Burley and Paul Lambert scored in the second half to close up the title race, with Rangers now holding a onepoint lead over Celtic and a twopoint advantage over Hearts in the Premier Division. Apart from spells at the beginning and end of the game, the visitors failed to impose themselves, as they have done so often in these

The form of Lambert and Burley, the goalscorers, as well as that of Marc Rieper, Alan Stubbs and Enrico Annoni was crucial to Celtic's victory as every one of those players gave as good a performance as they have all season. There was a starting place for the first time for Harald Brattbakk, the Austrian striker, signed for £4.2m from Rosenborg Trondheim, but he was given a close-up view of Goram's abilities, the Ranges goalkeeper once again threatening to hreak Celtic's heart.

He saved in the 27th minute from Brattbakk's angled shot from inside the penalty area and, with Tom Boyd delivering a pass from the left nine minutes later, Bratthakk escaped the attentions of Richard Gough, the Rangers captain, before shooting and once again watching Goram produce a superb stop.

The first half was largely a tactical battle, with both sides committing five players each to n congested midfield. The result was that, apart from Bratthakk's chances, the two goalkeepers had a relatively quiet time.

The transformation on the restart was dramatic as Celtic forced the play, squeezed the game and searched for the opening goal. Burley had a shot deflected two minutes into the second half and from the resultant comer Stuhbs saw his al-bound header diverted by the hand of Goram, who produced a fine flying save.



Enrico Annoni, the Celtic defender, is first to the ball to deny Rangers' Brian Laudrup in the Old Firm derby yesterday

Photograph: Reuters

dominate, Rieper headed over shortly afterwards and on the hour Goram again denied Brattbakk and Henrik Larsson saw his shot blocked on the line by Alex Cleland.

The opening goal was a welltakeo effort by Burley in the 66th minute. Jackie McNamafield team-mate, and the former utes from time. sea player scored with a With Celtic continuing to eighth goal of the season.

for a while, and with the introduction of Paul Gascoigne in the 71st minute for Jörg Albertz, 1op of the post. Rangers threatened to take advantage of the home side's hesitancy. However, any doubts as to the destination of the points ra sent a reverse pass to his mid-second goal for Celtic five min-

powerful angled drive into the bottom corner of the net for his eighth goal of the season.

The above was preceded by the points.

For Wim Jansen, the Celtic manager, the victory will justify the changes he has brought manager. The color of the net for his eighth goal of the season.

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The above was preceded by the points.

For Wim Jansen, the Celtic manager, the victory will justify the changes he has brought manager. The color of the net for his eighth goal of the season. with a magnificent parry. But fy the changes he has hrought performance, but there is a lot Heteree: H Dates (Motherwood).

Celtic's ascendancy faltered the hall was still in play and to the club since arriving in the of hard work still to be done." 25-yard drive crashed in off the

There was no complaint from Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, who recognised that his side had been second hest were wiped out with a cracking on the day. He said: "We were

found its way to Lambert, whose summer. His signings are beginning to gell and the hope of the Celtic coach is that the players will carry a new belief into the new year. True to form, however. Jansen refused to get carried away with this victory.

"It is only three points, the heaten by the better side, with same as any other game and Celtic looking more hungry for there is still a long way to go before the title will be decided."

The result at Celtic Park will ensure that with Celtic and Hearts both competing, this is one championship which will be more open than in the past when Rangers have virtually wrapped up the title by the turn

of the year.

O'Neill seeks personal hearing on misconduct charge

Martin O'Neill is to seek a Football Association charge of misconduct.

The Leicester City manager is in the dock after an alleged confrontation in the tunnel with referee Jeff Winter after his side's recent Premiership game last-minute penalty award incensed O'Neill, especially as it gave the visitors their first away win in the league for 12 months

what happened," O'Neill said. that fans who stand are causing Merrett, said yesterday.

duct charge after allegedly grabbing referee Gerald Ashby during the match with Blackburn at Ewood Park on 20 December, while Manchester City striker Paul Diekov faces a similar charge over alleged re-

Birmingham on 13 December. Manchester United are re-"I would hope that the FA the row with fans over standing

following the game against

West Ham midfielder Steve, safety problems and that Trafpersonal hearing to answer a Lomas is also up on a miscon- ford Council will close down parts of the ground if the problem continues, while fans have sought a meeting with the cluh to discuss the matter.

fans for their co-operation in their latest newsletter, but they at home to Everton. Everton's marks made to Andy D'Ursoe have already banned several supporters for what they term "persistent standing."

"We've taken a very relaxed fusing to soften their position in attitude as far as we can, but drastic measures are now called want to hear my view about at Old Trafford. United claim for," the club secretary, Ken

Christian Gross' fitness Switzerland, "When I say yes to of 95 years to Chartwell Land coach, Fritz Schmid, has gone a club, I mean it 100 per cent." home to Switzerland while the he said. "I am not a man who Department of Education and says after a few weeks, 'that's it'. now paid Chartwell £24m for Employment reconsiders his I am a fighter." work permit application.

cessful in their appeal. talks with Les Ferdinand over can. the striker's claims that he had been forced to train while un- Goldstone Ground, has jection of cash to solve its probfit, committed himself to Tottenham yesterday, dispelling

may lead him to return to

Of the Ferdinand affair, The club has appealed to Schmid could be back in a fort. Gross said: "The best way to night if Tottenham are suc- handle an injury is to train the day afterwards and not to wait. news because none of the mon-Gross, who said he had had You have to start as soon as you ey would find its way back to the

Brighton's former home, the changed hands for more than three times the amount the doubts that the Schmid problem club sold it for two years ago. from this." The Seagulls sold their home

for £7.4m to clear debts, and Abbey Life Assurance have what will soon be a retail park.

'Lord Bassam, leader of Brighton and Hove Council, said he was "outraged" at the struggling Third Division club.

"Albion needs a serious inlems," he said. "It offends me that the club will not benefit

- John Curtis

SPORTING DIGEST

Basketball

Ski Hotline

North America.

Allen iverson scored 29 points and had it assists as the Prizadelphia 76ers re-covered from a slow start to beat the Vancouver Grizzlies 115-104 on Thurs-day. Jim Jackson finished with 21 points, Mark Davis scored 15 and rook-ie Tim Thomas 15 for the 76ers, who posted a season-high points total and

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Ski Snapshot

improved their record to 2-2 on their seven-game road trip.

Cricket

The former captain Andy Flower scored an unbeaten 101 to put Zimbabwe in a strong position on the first day of their three-day match against

SNOW REPORT

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SWITZERLAND

a Sri Lanks Board XI in Matara yesterday. Flower hit nine fours in 256 minutes to become the highest scorer for Zimbabwe in their three tours to Sri Lanka. He beat the previous record of 78 scored by David Houghton during the 1983-84 series. Half-centuries by Grant Flower, Andy's brother, and the newcomer Murray Goodwin boosted the total to 311 for 6 at the close.

170 Chargoide

20 75 Geartmon

There will be no further play until to-morrow because today is a day of na-tional mourning for the funeral of a senior Buddhist priest. TOUR MATCH (Metars) First day of three: Zimbelwe 311 for 6 (99 overs, A Flower 10 ino, G Flower 58, M Goodwin 52) v 9n Lanka Board XI,

SKOL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Pur-fleet, Thursday's late results) Group A: P Taylor (Eng) bt D Smith (Eng) 3-0. Group D: P Evson (Eng) bt J Part (Car) 3-2. Group H: H Robinson (Eng) bt A Warmer (Eng) 3-0. Group E: O Priestey (Eng) bt S Raw (Eng) 3-0.

Football The French centre-half David Terrier. mutual consent.

mutal consern.

Three Gillingham players, Ade Aldriblyl, Simon Ratcliffe and liffy Onuora, have been charged with misconduct by the Football Association over an alleged incident in the players' tunnel after the Nationwide League Sacond Division game against Luton at Kenilworth Road on 2 December.

Phil Gridelet of Southend United has been charged with misconduct lo-wards a linesman during an FA Cup match against Fulham on 6 Decem

Covertry City's Northern Ireland in-ternational midfielder Michael O'Neill has started a three-month loan spell with the Scottish Premier Division club Abardeen, tollowing the resolution of a hitch in the deal. The Birmingham City captain, Steve Bruce, has delayed plans to move into management, and will opan talks shortly on a new contract with the club. The former Barcelona forward Ronnie Ekelund, who played for Southamp-ton in 1995, has returned to Britain hop-ing for another chance at The Deli. Evelund scored five goals in 17 match-es for Saints while on loan. Marseilles will field their new attack of Fabrizio Ravanelli and Christophe

Dugarry together for the first time in a competitive fixture in the French League Cup against Châteauroux to-morrow. The pair have so far only played half an hour together, in a friendly against Cannes on Tuesday, following Dugarry's signing from Barcelona three weeks ago.

Barcelona three weeks ago.

The Italian Serie A leaders Internazionale faca it the unbestern champions Juventus tomorrow as tha league season resumes after the Christmas break Inter welcome back Ronaldo following his involvement with Brazil In the Confederations Cup in Saudi Arabia tast month and a trip home to Brazil. He returned to Rome in the early hours of luesday morning and transferred straight on to a flight to Sicily, where he scored in Inter's 3-0 defeat of France's Auseme in a friendly there on Tuesday, before finally coming back to Milan.

Real Mallorca's Brazilien striker Pathinha.

Real Mallorca's Brazilian striker Pathinha is set to return home from Spain to join Flamengo, whose Brazilian interna-tional defender Junior Baiano has been linked with a move to Barcelona. The Brazillan International Doriva has signed for the Portuguese club, Porto, in a £2.5m transfer from Atletico Mineiro.

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEADUE PREMIER DIVISION

ice hockey

Rob Niedermayer scored two goals, including the game-winner on a pow-er play 1 minute 53 seconds into over-time, to lift the Florida Panthers to a 2-1 victory over the New Jersey Dev-ils in Thursday's National Hockey

League action. The win was only the fifth in 22 games at home for the Panthers - they were their red away kit for the first time all home this season for use that time all florine this seasor to try to resumed their fortunes. NHL: Rords 2 New Jersey 1 jod; Washingtor. 3 Anaheim 2; Boston 0 Ottawa 0 jod; Chica-go 3 Toronto 3 (al); Phoenix 4 Los Angeles 0.

Rallying

PARIS-DAKAR RALLY Second stage (Nerbonne to Graneda with a 35km special timed section at Châletou-Lastours): Cars: 1 & Saby (Fr. Misubshi) 29 min 1 sec; 2 J-P Fontensy (Fr. Masubshi) 29 min 1 sec; 2 J-P Fontensy (Fr. Masubshi) 4-1 m 9 sec; 3 K Shinozuka (Japan, Misubshi) 4-15: 4 J-M Serviz (Sp. Toyota) +2-25; 5 P Wambergus (Fr. Toyoya) +2-30; 5 J Nierschmatt (Get Buggy) +2-55; 7 J-L Schlesser (Fr. Buggy) +2-56; 6 C Souze (Fr. Missan) +3-30; 10 A Saka (Japan, Isuzu) +3-43 Metoryoles: 1 F Fasole (ft. KTM) 29 mm 4) sec; 2 C Solano (Sp. Cagish) +35 sec; 4 P Streylol (Fr. Honde) +43; 6 G Sala (ft. KTM) +1-02; 6 J Roma 15p, KTM) +1-20; 7 J Wann Deventer (SA) +1-46; 8 F Fick (Fr. Honde) +2-04; 3 G Marabergus +4-02; 4 Servia +3-44, 5 Wambergus +4-102; 5 Schlesser +4-1; 7 Suzu +4-5; 8 M Prieto (Sp. Missabshi) +5: 7; 9 Kleinschmatt +5-42; 10 P Larrigus (Fr. Promod) +1-56; 6 Van Deventer +2-09; 7 Morales +1-56; 6 Van Deventer +2-09; 7 Morales +1-56; 6 Van Deventer +2-09; 7 Morales +2-26; 2 P Marabergus (Fr. Honde) +2-09; 7 Morales +2-26; 2 P Marabergus (Fr. Honde) +2-09; 7 Morales +2-26; 2 P Marabergus (Fr. Honde) +2-09; 7 Morales +2-26; 2 P Marabergus (Fr. Honde) +2-09; 7 Morales +2-26; 2 P Marabergus (Fr. Honde) +2-09; 7 Morales +2-26; 2 P Marabergus (Fr. Honde) +2-09; 7 Morales +2-26; 2 P Marabergus (Fr. Honde) +2-09; 7 Morales +2-26; 2 P Marabergus (Fr. Honde) +3-43; 10 J Olmos (Sp. Honde) \$2-35;

49ER WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Perth, WA) First day; 1 C Nicholson and 0 Philips (Aus) 40rs; 2 M Larson and K Hall (US) 16; 3 M Baur and P Barth (Ger) 22; 4 A Beashed and 7 Marson and 20; 2 and C Marson and T Wiseman (Aus) 23; 5 J and C McK-ee (US) 24: 6 P Arey and 11 Griffiths (NZ) 33

Table tennis

The English and Commonwealth champion Matthew Syed has climbed to a career-high 33rd place in the latest world table terms rankings. Carl Prean is up one place to 38, while English land's top woman. Lisa Lomas, moves

SIDELINES

Composing a team of opposites

The path Mark Hughes followed from Manchester United to Chelsea is so well worn it is possible to create a credible team from play-



Maradon Fream st

ers who have represented both tomorrow's FA Cup opponents in modern times. In goal would be Alex Stepney - onc game for the Blues and 433 for the Reds - with a back four of Paul Parker, Stewart Houston, Mal Donaghy and Colin

The artistry of Ray Wilkins (an £875,000 United buy from

Chelsea), George Graham, Jim McCalliog and Mickey Thomas would compensate for lack of midfield balance. Up front, Tommy Baldwin would be an able foil for Hughes. Tommy Docherty and Dave Sexton, who each managed both clubs, could revive their manager-coach partnership. Graham Moore, a Welsh striker in Hughes' build whom

the Doc made Chelsea's record buy at £35,000 in 1961 was sold on to Matt Busby. One of United's post-Munich recruits, Stan Crowther, made the opposite move, and the freelance amateur goalkeeper, Mike Pinner, listed both Old Trafford and Stamford Bridge among his "temping" jobs in the early Sixties.

Seventy-seven years ago, Thomas Meehan, a teetotal halfback, joined Chelsea from United for a then substantial £3,500, only to die of sleeping sickness shortly after his England debut, Maxwell Woosnam, son of a former Canon of Chester and Wimbledon doubles champion in 1921, played for Chelsea before the Great War and United after it. A broken leg ended his career, coincidentally not long after his only cap.

Ten things Crystal Palace's midfielder Itzhak Zohar might be



missing in London SE25 today following his return to Israel

I An evening with 6 The Lord Napler jazz Michael Barrymore at the Fairfield Hall, Croydon. Less laughs than an afternoon at Selhurst, hut about half the price. 2 The most famous twin.

the pair of television masts. at Crystal Palace. 3 Going shopping without

leaving work — in the Sainsburys end of the ground. 4 The January sale at har, with a 100 per cent Dabners garden centre. failure rate at Palace, is Croydon. The perfect capable of missing a place to buy a new bench to spend Saturdays on. 5 The coaching skills of Park cheers of: "There's Ron Noades, one of the only one Itzhak Zohar, few chairmen with an FA

coaching badge.

puh in Thornton Heath the place to go on Blues night when your woman's left, your dog's died and Zohar is in the starting 11. 7 Frequent opportunities towers in south London - to go to Wembley - five visits for Palace in the 90s. 8 Marti Webb and Nigel from Eastenders in pantomime in Croydon.

9 Penalties. Although Zopenalty anywhere. 10 The rousing Selhurst one Itzhak Zohar. One

too many.'

NAME OF THE GAME No 16: ASTON VILLA

One of English football's oldest and most famous clubs owes its existence to a cricket team. Cricketers who attended the Villa Cross Wesleyan chapel in the Aston district of Birmingham formed the football club in 1874. Their first match, against Aston Brook St Mary's rugby team, consisted of one half of rugby and one half of foothall.



Last season, Harry Red-

round replay 1-0 at home to

Welsh cluh, Newport, then of

The East London club

Six years ago, Farnbor-

In 1972 Hereford, then of

1, 1 = 1.

Mariana Mariana

On 2 January 1993, the If recent experience is any British weather did its best guide, Emley's UniBond to curtail the FA Cup pro- League side might just have gramme, when frozen pitch- a chance against West Ham es, hard frost and a heavy in the FA Cup this afternoon. swirling fog caused a third of the third-round matches knapp's team lost a thirdto be ahandoned.

Undeterred, Second Di- Wrexham, while another vision Hartlepool went ahead with their game the Fourth Division, claimed against Premiership visitors West Ham's scalp in 1979. Crystal Palace, despite the fact that the pitch was icy have needed replays against and the visibility was awful. lower-division opponents sev-

Two minnows travelling eral times in the last 30 years. to Selhurst Park this weekend - Scunthorpe, who play ough were heaten by a last-Palace today, and Wrexham, minute Trevor Morley goal who play Wimbledon to- in a replay at Upton Park. morrow - can take heart. Twelve months earlier West from the underdog's per- Ham had needed two formance five years ago. matches to beat Aldershot.

A dubious 82nd-minute penalty decision it may have : the Southern League, lost to heen, and one harely visible a Geoff Hurst replay hatthat, but Hartlepool still trick at Upton Park. When won 1-0. With conditions at : they met again two years lat-Selhurst likely to be wet, if : cr. Hereford were in the not waterlogged this week- Third Division and won a reend, slip-ups could happen. play at Edgar Street 2-1.

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS Full transfers

Alijosa Asanovic (midfielder) Derby Coun-

Contributors: Phil Shaw, Nick Harris, Paul Newman Readers' contributions welcome. Send to Sidelines, Sports Desk. The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL e-mail address: sport @ independent.co.uk



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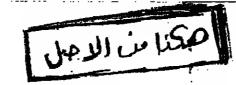
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Snow Reports supplied by Newstell



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SHEET THE PARTY.

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A Thomas of the

Swettie Bettie wrangles threaten to spoil the tea party. And where's my gong? training in time to fine the latevulnerable, not least my pledge

Once a week.

That's no surprise consideriog events at the Old Cornfield. Fritz Unslartz, our returning hero, was an instant success last week, scoring a halthe leaders. However, he's now threatening to go back work permit for his personal tea lady.

Apparently Fritz now has a

Three days into 1998 and al- of tea-drinking. English break- tra payment if they went up. office with a kilo of dope to sell services to the game, not to for Gaffer," he claimed, which of anyone calling for my resready I want to turn the clock fast with lemon in the morning, Her replacement, a YTS to their kids. Sir Hirem's back - to about 1973. One New Darjeeling and semi-skinned trainee, cannot even steer the threatening to go public on the Year's resolution, to get to milk before training, pepper- trolley, let alone cope with a PM's offshore tobacco holdings mint during the break and comers, has gone by the board camomile and honey afteralready and a few others look wards. Later on he works his to have an alcohol-free-day strength Lapsang Southong.

This is an area where the English game lags behind the Continent and we are especially weak. The old tea lady trick on his debut as we beat went to Fulham a month or so ago, lured by a golden teapot with the Harrods logo and a home if we can't secure a trehling of her wages to 3/- a cup. We got a fee but, seeing the improvement in Fulham's results since, perhaps we

tea regime like Fritz's. But, and we've suggested Swettie while I can understand his demight like to make a personsire to have his own tea lady I al appeal to the civil servant way through four different do wonder if he'd be so keen dealing with the matter, over fruit teas and a Ceylon hefore if she looked like one of my ex- a cup of tea you understand. finishing with a double- wives rather than Melinda

Messenger. Tea-Person's Union, nor the nise Swettie Bettie's Diploma from the Tahitian Institute of Char-Brewiog, so the Department of Employment will not he's off back home, so we're carefully planned programme should have negotiated an ex- Leroy's gone down the cabinet least I expected an OBE for rather than BG on it. "Short

If that fails I'll be lucky to manage an alcohol-free morn-Unfortunately neither the ing each week. Mind you, a couple of drinks are under-Rosy Lee Foundation, recog- standable, I need them to get over the shock of not being named in the New Year's Honours List. I was sure I'd be getting a gong this year, I mean, approve a work permit. If we Sir Tom Finney? All right, he don't win the appeal Fritz says could play a hit, but his real job was as a plumber - football was pulling out all the stops. just his sideline. At the very surprised to find it had GF

mention my low-profile charity work - for more than 30 years I've been giving comfort and financial support to ladies in distress oo the streets without ever seeking publicity.

It was all I needed after the dismal set of Christmas preseots I received. A nasal hair trimmer (batteries not included), a set of brown paper hags and map of the motorway oetwork for receiving bungs (very funny I don't think, especially as it was from the chairman). four bottles of cheap whisky and two football coaching books. At least Kit Mann, my faithful assistant, came up with a new puffa coat, though I was

didn't explain the cockerel on the other breast.

Still, with the old one at the dry cleaners (I noticed it smelt a hit gruhby when I woke up in it on New Year's Day) I'll be wearing it today. And what a day. The third round of the Cup, the most evocative weekend of the season. Personally I'll never forget

the day I scored the winner for One-horse Town Athletic against the league leaders. One of the best own-goals I ever scored - me and Butterfingers Bertie made a killing on the fixed-odds that day.

We've a good draw, another Premiership side away from home. It may not look ideal to the fans but there's no danger

ignation when we go out because everyone expects us to lose. I looked at West Ham's draw and feared for Harry, So. he's got a good chance of making the next round, but what if they draw someone like Watford away? Or lose to Emley today? Better off with a nice and early respectable defeat if you ask me.

There's only ooe concern. Both Ivor Niggle and Shaun Prone are fit to play. The club historian tells me the last time that happened, we thrashed the champions 6-1 at their place. I might have to leave them out.

Barry Gaffer was talking to Glerin Moore

Maradona's Napoli dream still alive

ITALY

The remarkable notion of Diego Maradona becoming both president and coach of the Italian Serie A club, Napoli, has not - yet - been dismissed as fan-

Maradona's manager, Guillermo Coppola, said this week that discussions to allow the former captain of Argentina to take over at Napoli have been positive."

Coppola spoke on his return from Italy, where he negotiated on behalf of Maradona, and added that the club have proposed a deal to hring the 1986 World Cup winner back to the city where he played from 1984 to 1991.

Napoli, who won their only two Serie A titles with Maradona in 1987 and 1990 but later sued him, are bottom of the top flight, having lost eight of their to be settled in the first days of January. It all depends on whether Napoli's president. give away his club shares," Cop-

Ferlaino sells [his shares]. Diego tive for cocaine during a routine who led them to the finals.

FAIR PLAY LEAGUE

Rollege . . . Genes Red Yellow Pts Ave

1 G Pol............ 13 7 54 89 6.85

2 M Beed...... 9 2 45 55 6.11

3 G Wilard 11 3 60 55 5.91

4 G Barber ___ 11 3 42 57 5.18

5 P Durkm......13 3 49 64 4.92

6 J Winter 12 2 41 51 4.25

7 U Flennie12 1 45 50 4.17

8 S Dunn 9 1 32 37 411

9 P Jones10 2 31 41 410

11 P Alcock 11 O 44 44 400

12 A Willine 12 2 37 47 3.92

13 G Ashby11 2 33 43 391

14D Elleray12 1 41 46 3.83.

15 K Burge10 1 30 35 3.50

16 M Bodenham 10 0 33 33 3.30

17 N Barry Ti 1 31 35 3.27

18 0 Gallagher .. 12 2 27 37 3.08

19 S Lodge 11 0 22 22 200

(Premiership matches; Includes abandoned

gemes. Red cards: Sots. Yellow: 100

reputation. IRAN The experienced German

FOOTBALL **AROUND** THE WORLD BY RUPERT **METCALF**

will take care of Napoli's football activities and will have absolute powers."

Earlier in the week Maradona had said that his aplast time games. "This is going pointment as president and coach of Napoli "is almost 60 per cent a fact".

feuded with club management.

UNFAIR PLAY LEAGUE

1 Coventry.....21 4 45 65 310

2 Leeds21 3 46 61 290

3 Bolton......21 4 40 60 286

4 Everton21 3 45 60 286

5 Chelsea21 3 38 53 253

6 Sheff Wed 21 3 36 51 243

7 Arsenal21 1 45 50 238

8 Derby22 1 47 52 236

9 Blackburn21 3 34 49 233

10 Newcastle 20 2 36 46 230

11 C Palace.....22 2 40 50 2.27

12 West Ham....22 1 37 42 191

13 Liverpool20 1 29 34 1.70

14 Man Utd21 0 3535 1.67

15 Barnsley21 0 32 32 1.52

16 Southampton 21 0 32 32 152

17 Wimbledon .. 22 1 28 33 150

18 Leicester 21 1 26 31 148

19 Tottenham....21 1 26 31 148

20A Villa21 1 24 29 138

drug test and was hanned - not for the last time-from foothall for 15 months. In December 1990, Napoli sued their star player, claiming that his behaviour had damaged the cluh's

coach, Udo Lattek, has been offered the chance to take Iran to this year's World Cup finals, Bild newspaper reported yesterday.

Lauek, 62, said he met Iranian officials on Tuesday and Wednesday in Tehran and is considering their proposal. "There are several things I must discuss," he said. "My family would not be able to come to Iran with me... and theo there is the language problem."

Lattek, who has coached Bayern Munich, Borussia Monchengladbach and Barcelooa. has not been employed in club football since a spell at Schalke 04 ended in 1993. He current-Despite helping the club to ly works as a summariser for a Corrado Ferlaino, is willing to the Uefa Cup in 1989 as well as sports television channel. Iran two titles, Maradona often have spent over a month looking for a new coach to replace "Maradooa's offer is real. If In March 1991, he tested posi- the Brazilian, Valdeir Vieira,



...and counting World Cup finals begin in France

Nigeria may have a problem finding suitable opponents for their programme of World Cup warm-up friendlies. In its wisdom, the Nigerian Football reek that the 'Super Eacles will not play countries hostile to the African nation's military rulers. Austin Mgbolu, an FA spokesman, said his organisation would turn down any re-quest for a friendly from any country which has had diplo-matic disagreements with Nigeria's government. "Neither are we going to approach such enemies," he said. This is in accordance with a directive from the Sports Minister European opponents being lined up are Yugoslavia.



First Division

The difference a year can make

Whichever way you view the tables, 1997 was a bad year for the blue halt of Merseyside. A year ago Everton entered the new year in eighth position in the Premiership, yet they finished last season in 15th position and are now only two places off the bottom. A table for the calendar year shows that Everton earned fewer points (34) in 1997 than any other club in either the Premiership or Nationwide League. Even Doncaster Rovers earned 37 points, although they did play seven more games than Everton. Manchester United, predictably, won more points (64 from 39 games) than any other Premiership club, though their 12-month haul was bettered in the Second Division by Bristol City, who took 85 points from 46 games.

League tables for 1997 (calendar year)

Premiership							
	p	W	D	L	F	A.	Pt
Man Utd	39	25	9	·5	- 83	35	84
Cheisea	39	20	6	13	72	47	66
Blackburn	. 40	17 .	-15	8 .	63	- 42	66
Arsenal	38	18	11	· 9	60	35	65
Liverpool	37	18	9	10	60	'37	63
Newcaste	38	16	12	10	59	43	60
Leeds -	39	15	14	10	42	37	59
Dertry	39	15	10	14	59	61	55
ASIDR Villa	38	14	11	14	43	42	53
Leicester	39	13	13	13	51	48	52
West Ham	40	15	7	18	49	55	52
Sheft, Wed	39	14	10	15	61	73	52
Southampton	39	13	10	16	47	49	49
Wimbledon	39	10	13	16	37	42	43
Coventry	39	9	15	15	38	57	42
Tottenham	32	10	8	21	-11	62	38
Everton	39	8	10	21	35	61	34
Premiership a	and Fir	st Divisi	ion				
	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	Pts
Middlesbrough	43	21	12	10	69	42	75
		••	• •	40	E 2	14	

	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	Pts
Wolves	46	23	. B .	14	66	54	78
Sheff Lttd	45	19	16	10	71	49	73
loswich · ·	44	- 19	14	7-11 v	-64	39	71 -
Chartton	46	19	13	14	72	67	70
Birmingham	48	-18	15	15	53	45	69
W8A	46	i9	8	19	53 . 53 .	56	65
OPR	.45	16	12	17	. 59	65	6D
Norwich	46	16	12	18	55	66	60
Man City	46	15	14	17	60	51	59
Swindon	46	16	11	19	49	75	59
Bradford	45 -	1 5 :	14	16	- 47	55	59
Portsmouth	44	17	7	20	58	61	58
Reading	45	15	12	18	54	67	57
Tracemere	45	14	14	17	59	58	56
Port Vale	45	15	.11	19 .	· 55	64	. 56
Stoke	49	15	11	22	47	59	56
Oxford · · ·	45	- 13	B	-24	57-	74	47
Huddersheld	45	11	13	21	43	66	46
First Division	n/Secon	d Divis	ion				
	Р	W	D	1	F	A	Pts
				- 40			79 .
Stockport	46 -	23 .	. 10 15	: 13	70	- 49 48	66
Bury Grimsby	46	16	14	15 16	49 65	56	62
CIEWE	47	16	10	21	50	50	58
Didham	45	13.	13	19	61	65	52 -
Southend	45	10	11 .	24	46	86	41
SOUDIENG	73	10	"	24	40	00	7.
Top Ten Nati	ionwide	League	e teams				
	P	W	D	L	F	Α	Pts
Bristol City	46	26	7	13	_70	43	85
Wadord	47	23	14	10	59	35	83
Stackport	46 -	23	- 10 -	13 -:	- 70	.49	79

15

MAJOR WEEKEND **FIXTURES AND POOLS CHECK**

Today

3 D unless stated Off: Match postponed

FA Cup third round Arsenal v Port Vale . . .

Barnsley v Bolton
Blackburn v Wigen
Bournemouth v Huddersfield
Bristol Rovers v Ipswich
Cardiff v Oldham

Charlton v Nottm Forest

20 Portsmouth v Aston Villa

23 Rothernam v Sunderland 24 Sheffield Urd v Bury

24 Shemado I of Vory
25 Swindon v Stevenage
26 Wartord v Sheffield Wed
27 WBA v Stoke
28 West Ham v Emily
Playing tomocrow (pools panal will
adjusticate).

Nationwide League

Second Division

Third Division

- Colchester v Harriepock

Bett's Scottish League

35 Aberdeen v Dundee Utd

First Division

Second round - Annan v Vale of Leithen (20)

Arbroath v Queen of South......

- Stranger v Fraserburgh

FA Cup third round

Wimbledon v Wrashem (20)

WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE

Today Footbalt

An University of the American States of the A

Clepton.

UNIBOND LEAGUE Premier Division: AlIrincham v Spennymoor, Bamber Bridge
v Guiseley: Bishop Audidand v Barrow, Blytin
Spartans v Chorley; Colwyn Bay v Frickley; Gainsborough Tirinty v Runcom; Hyde
v Winstord: Lancastar v Boston Utri; Leigh
Rati v Attreton; Radciffe Borough v Manne.
First Divisions Bractford Park Avenue v
Whittey Bay; Buxton v Stocksbridge; Eastwood Town v Farsley Cebit; Great Harwood
v Witton; Gretna v Flotton; Harrogate
Town v Congleton; Metlock v Belper; Traflord v Natherfield; Writiby v Ashton Utd;
Workengton v Droylsden.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Division:
Atherstone v Burton; Beth v Ashford;
Bromsgrove v Termworth; Crawley v Sallsbury; Dorchester v Gloucester; Forest
Green Rovers v Merthyr Tydfli; Gresley
Rovers v Hastings; Rothwell v Cambridge
City; Sritingbourne v King's Lynn; St.
Leonard's Stamorott v Halesowen Town;
Worcester v Numeaton, Michand Division;
Bedworth v Blelvangz; Brackley v Reddiich;

Corby v Bileston; Hinckley Utd v Evesham; Moor Green v Illeston; Racing Cub Warwick v Grantham; Shepelsad Dynamo v Stafford Rangers; Stourbridge v VS Rugby; Wisbach v Sutton Coldfield. Southern Division: Baldock v Cinderford; Bashley v Wiseton-tuper-Mers; Clavedon v Farsham; Chelmsford v Witney; Dartford v Trowbridge; Erith & Belveders v Newport (IbW); Fisher Athletic v Havgari; Newport (Gwent) v Fiset; Tonbridge v Weymouth; Water-tooville v Cirencester; Yate v Margarte. toville v Cirencester; Yate v Margare, NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Division: Atherton Collegies v Maine Road; Biackpool Rovers v Burscough; Chadderton v Holler Old Boys; Danwen v Hastingden; Kidegrove v St Helens; Prescot v Atherton LT; Rossendale v Ramsbottom; Salford v Mossley; Varuhall GM v Glossop; Warrington v Catheroe. WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First Di-WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE FIRSt Di-vision: Crockerhill v Cray Wanderers (2:15); Deal v Beckenham; Erith Town v Chatham; Feversham v Lordswood (2:0); Folkestone Invicta v Turbridge Welts; Greenwich Borough v Hythe (2:15); Neme Bay v Cantlerbury; Ramsgate v Sheppey; Swanley Furness v Stade Green; Thamse-med v Whitstable; VCD Athletic v Cornthi-or (2:15)

an (2.15).

UNIJET SUSSEK COUNTY LEAGUE
First Division: Arundel v Peecehaven &
Telscombet Burgess Hil v Mila Oak; Eastbourne Town v Wick; Horsham YMCA v
Shoreham; Littlehampton v Heilsham;
Pagham v Langney; Portfield v Ringmer;
Sandeen v Hassocks: Selsey v Rechal;
Whitehawk v Chichester.

UNIVERSENDED INSTEED COUNTIES Whitehawk v Chichester.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES
LEAGUE Premier Division: Boston Town
v Stewarts & Lloyds Corby; Bourne v
Wetingborough; Buckinghem Town v Yaxley; Cogenhoe v Mirrhees Blackstone: Desborough v Kempeston; Ford Sports v
Storfold; Long Buckby v Eynesbury; Polton v Wootton; SI Nacis v Spalding; Stamford v Northampton Spencer.

ford v Northampton Spencer.

SCHEWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Division: Backwell v Odd Doem: Bridgwater v Briefington; Caine v Chard; Chippenham v Bridgort; Emore v Westbury; Iauriton v Keynsham; Tiverton v Melkaham; Paulion v Bristol Manor Farm. Les Phillips Cuip second round; Wellington v Dawlish.

MODTHEEN COLINTERS EACT (EACUS ong round: Weilington v Dewrish.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE
Premier Division: Curcon Astron v Eccleshill; Denaby v Armthorpe; Glasshoughton v Brigg; Hallam v Pickering;
Hattield Main v Ossett Albion; Hucknall v
Selby; North Fémily v Pontefract; Ossett

Town v Arnold; Liversedge v Sheffield; Thaddey v Maltby. JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Aerostruc-tures v East Cowes Vics; Andover v Chrischuric; Brockerflust v Cowes Sports; Gosport v Newbury; Romsey v BAT Sports; Tortion v Easteligh; Whitchurch v Bernerton Heath.

Heath
JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division: Bury Town v Cleaton; Des v Sudbury Town; Ely v Gorieston; Felbstone v
Tepree; Halsteed v Softam; Heston v Nevmarket; Lowessoft v Woodbridge; Stovmarket w Warboys; Sudbury Warnderers v
Harwich & Parkeston. HARWICH & PAIRAGERY,
INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Bridgnorthy Sundwell; Chasetown
v Boldmere St Michaels; Halesowen Harriera v Blocwich; Kinga Norton v Pershore;
Krypersley v Willenhall; Oldbury v Shifmat,
Stapenhill v Rushall; Wednesfield v Strattord; West Mittlands Police v Rocester.

ADMOST MISSIBARICE: MOSTARIEM

tord; West Miciands Police v Rocester.
ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN
LEAGUE First Divisions Ballingham Town
v Seaham Red Star; Dunston v Jarnow;
Durham v Stockton; Easington v Jarnow;
Morpeth v Ballingham Synthonia: Murton v
Northallerton; RTM Newcastle v Guisborough; Shidon v Crock, South Shieds v Consett; Tow Law v Beolington Terriers.
PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND
LEAGUE: Buckle Thiste v Fort William; Cove
Rangers v Hurtily: Eigin v Brora Rangers;
Keith v Forres Mechanics; Wick Academy
v Clachrapouddin.

V Clachracucidin.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Bangor City v
Caernerfon (2:30): Barry v Ebbw Vala
(2:30): Carmarthen v Celersons (2:30): Connairs Quay v Cemaes Ynys Mon (2:30):
Cwmbran v Inter Cable-Tel Cardial (2:30):
Newtown v Aberystwyth (2:30). Porthmadog v Firnt (2:30): Finsyader v Haverfordwest (2:30): Weishpool v Rhyl (2:30).
SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE Premier Divisiton: Bailymena v Linfield: Cifronville v
Glenavon: Crusaders v Colerane, Genetraria
v Ards; Portadown v Omagh, First Division:
Bengor v Bailyclare; Cemick v Dungannon:
Distillery v Larne; Limavedy v Newry.
HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND Distairy V Talle, Emissey V Taller HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premier Division; Deny Cty v Shamrock Rovers (7.30); Kilkenny v Dundaik (7.30). THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP Third round inswich fown v Braciford City.

Rugby Unton TETLEY'S BITTER CUP Fourth round: Bath v London Scotlish (30), Bracknell v Rotherham (20); Camberley v Newbury

(20), Fylde v Rosstyn Park (20) London Weish v Gloucester (20), Manchester v Lon-don Irish (20); Newcastle v Eleter (30), Northampton v Bedford (20), Richmond v Doncester (215), Rugby v Reading (30) Wast Hartleppol v Wallefield (20) Post-poned: Coventry v Laccester, Moseley v Sate,

Crystal Palace

Sale.

JEWSON NATIONAL LEAGUE One: Liverpool St Helens v Notungham (230): Lydney v Morley (20). Otley v Harrogate (275) Huo North Aepatha v Warmapton Park (230): Brimmpham & Scithuli v Walsali (230). Nerdali v Sheffield (230): Preston Grasshoppers v Nyneaton (2 til), Seogley Paul v Lohfield (235): Sourbnidge v Harddey (230). Two South: Barking v Weston-super-Mare (25): Bridgwater v Heriey (20). Cition v Netropolitan Police (230), North Walsham v Esher (215): Rednuth v Cheftenham (230). Postponed: Havani v Pymoulh.

WEI SH NATHONAL LEAGUE Premier Ili-WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier Bi-vision: Bridgend v Newport (20); Caroffi v Pontypridd (60), Neath v Lanelli (20), Swansaa v Ebbw Vale (20), First Division: Abertillery v Aberavon (20), Blackwood v South Welles Police (20), Durnant v Marthy

(20); Uandovary v Caerphily (20); New-bridge v Bonymeer (20), Pontypool v Dross Keya (20); Rumney v Maesteg (230), Tre-orchy v UWIC (Carolif Institute) (20) TENNENTS SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP Third Division: Aberdeen GSFP v Stew-artry (20): Stewart's Metville FP v Grange AIB IRISH LEAGUE First Olyision: Backrock College v Gerryoven (23). Contact v Constitution (230), Dungannen v Lansdowne (230); Old Bekvedere v Doichn

Lansdowne (230); Old Beheders v Drynn (230), Old Crescent v SI Marys (230). Tereture v Ballymens (230), Second Bl-vision: Bective Rangers v Buccaneers (230), Derry v Skarnes (230), Malone v Greystones (230), Suridays Well . Gal-wegans (230) LOCC v Instonans (230) Wanderers v Old Wesley (230). FIRST ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL: South Africa Under-19 v England Under-19

TOUR MATCH (One day): kenya v England A (et Narrobi)

AUNIWEISER LEAGUE: Crystal Palaice & Leicester Ricers (730). Derby Storm & Chester Jets (730). Manchester Gunts v Newcastle Eagles (730). Wattord Royals v

Greater London Leopards (7:30), Thames Valley Tigers v London Towers (8:0) Worthing Bears v Sheffield Sharks (8:0) WOMEN'S NATIONAL TROPHY Sems Fi-

Mockey
DTZ INTERNATIONAL INDOOR TOURNAMENT Pool & Seeston, Combined Services, Stourport Caperceilles (Stot.) Pool
B: Doncaster, Harborne, New York, SIAbans (930 to 730) All Glades Arena, Kiddeminister) Pool C: East Cristread Hull;
Kiddeminister, MM (Scot Pool D: Bartord
Tigers, Firebrands Ckd Loughtonians;
Swanssa, (930 to 730) Jat Perdiswell SC,
Wocceller)

Swansea. (930 to 7 50 july rendered by Woccester)

WOMEN'S NATIONAL INDOOR LEAGUE First Origine: Bradford v Wimbledon (920), Woring v Shelied (1930), Suiton Coldfield v Canterbury (1140), Bracknel v Eamouth (1250), Ealing v Bradford (150), Wimbledon v Woking (240), Sheffield v Suiton Coldfield (330), Canterbur v Bracknel (220), Exmouth v Ealing (530) fall at Cock's Moors Moods, King's Heath Second Division: Dulmon v St Austell (935), Exter v Europpool (100), Portished Firebrands v Welton (100), Aldridge v Old Loughtonans (125); Exter v St Austell (135), Liverpool v Old Loughtonans (125); Dulwich v Aldridge (255), Welton v Loughborough Students (335); St Austell v Portionach (150), Portional (150), Portionach (1

SUPERLEAGUE: Ayr Scottish Eagles v Basingstofe Bison (630), Cardill Devils v Sheffald Steelers (70).

EXPRESS CUP: Norongham Penthers v Other sports

Wolves

Blackpool

Sheff Util.

60 55

ATHLETICS: World Cross Challenge (Dur-DARTS: Skal World Championship (Circus Tavein, Purlicet). SNOOKER: World Championship qualifiers (Northreck Castle, Blackpool).

Football HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premier Division: Cork City v Finn Harps (2.0).

Tomorrow

TETLEY'S BITTER CUP Fourth round: Blackneath v Saracens (30); Wasps v Mar-leguns (30); Wortester v Bristol (230). SCOTTISH INTER-DISTRICT CHAMPION-SHIP: Caledonia v Glasgow (20) jal Rubis-ian. Aberdeen): Edmburgh v Scottish Borders (20) (et Inverleith).

Cricket SECOND ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL: South Africa Under-19 v England Under-19 TOUR MATCH (One day): Kenya v England

AIB IRISH LEAGUE First Division: Shan-

36 49

. 73 72

Statistics: Brian Sears

AUDWEIBER LEAGUE: Chester Jets v Warford Royals (5:30); Sheffield Sharks v Thames Vately Tigers (60); Graeter London Leopards v Butters Brimingham (50); Lon-don Towers v Manchester Giants (50).

SAINSBURY'S CLASSIC COLA MEN'S NATIONAL CUP Semi-final: Coventry v WOMEN'S NATIONAL TROPHY Semi-fi-

DTZ INTERNATIONAL INDOOR TOUR-NAMENT: Winners' play-offs (start 9.30). Finet: 3.20 (al Glades Arena, Kiddemin-ster). Plate competition (start 9.30). Final: 3.30 (ar Perdswell SC, Worcester). WOMEN'S NATIONAL INDOOR LEAGUE
Premier Division: Stough v Leicester (920);
Ipswich v Otton Terraquest (1030); Hightown
v Doncaster (1440); Chetmstord v Stough
(1240); Leicester v Ipswich (130); Otton Terraquest v Hightown (220); Doncaster v

Chelmstord (310) (all at Crystal Palace ASC). First Division: 920 Woking v Sutton Coldfield (920): 1030 Bracknell v Ealing (1030): 1140 Wimbledon v Sheffield (1140): 1250 Canterbury v Esmouth (1250): 150 Bradford v Woking 1500: 240 Sutton Coldfield v Bradford (240): 330 Ealing v Wimbledon (330): 420 Sheffield v Centerbury (420): 30 Eamouth v Bradford (510) (all Cook's Moors Woods, Ring's Heath, Second Division: Portishead Firebrands v Liverpool (815): Loughtborough Students v Exeler (700); Akting v St Austel (1005; Welson v St Absars (1005; St Austel) Welson (335; Exeler v Ot Ioughtonians (415); St Absars v Liverpool (255); St Austel v Welson (335; Exeler v Ot Ioughtonians (415); Ponshead Firebrands v Dulwich (455) (all al East Grinstead HC).

tce hockey SUPERLEAGUE: Newcastie Cobra

DARTS: Skol World Championship (Circus Tavern, Purfleet). SNOOKER: World Championship qualifiers (Norbreck Castle, Blackpool).

EXPRESS CUP: Bracknell Bees v Cardit

ON WEDNESDAY IT WAS THEM.

Draw date: 31/12/97. The winning numbers: 8, 13, 18, 21, 23, 29. Bonus number: 30.

CATEGORY	NO. OF WINNERS	AMOUNT FOR EACH WINNER	TOTAL EACH TIER
Match 6 (Jackpot)	6	£709,\$79	£4.257,474
March 5 plus bonus ball	17	£77,058	£1,309,986
Match 5	941	£870	£813,670
Match 4	48,723	£36	£1.754,028
Mairh 3	734.366	£10	£7,343,660
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THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

in the support of any discrepance in the above, the data contained in Camelol central computer system shall prevail

Ed de Goey watched Chelsea win last season's FA Cup on television in Rotterdam. When they begin their defence of the trophy at Stamford Bridge tomorrow he will be more closely involved – minding Cheisea's goal against free-scoring Manchester United. As he prepared for the third round tie, he spoke to Glenn Moore.

With his broad-shouldered gangling frame, luguhrious face, moustache, shaggy hair, high forehead and prominent eyes Ed de Goey is the nearest thing the Premiership has to Donald Sutherland. There were those, when he first started guarding the Chelsea goal, who suggested he played like the actor as well.

The goal he conceded to Southampton, when Kevin Davies caught him hesitating over a clearance, was the most obvious error but whenever the ball was in the air De Goey did not appear to inspire confidence. With Chelsea having more keepers than London Zoo, the Dutchman's chances of holding off Frode Grodas, Dmitri Kharin, Kevin Hitchcock and Nick Colgan seemed numbered.

But tomorrow he keeps goal against Manchester United as one of the Premiership's form goalkeepers. With hard work and good advice he has adapted to the more physical nature of the English game, sharpened his play and begun keep-

In the last 11 matches De Goey has conceded seven goals and, despite the uncertain start, his League record of 21 in 21 is bettered only by Peter Schmeichel. David James and Kasey Keller of the Premiership's regular custodians.

This achievement is all the more creditable in the context of the team. No disrespect to the admirable Nigel Martyn hut it is one thing to keep goal hehind a blanket of white shirts, another entirely to do so behind the gaping holes sometimes left by Ruud Gullit's cavaliers.

De Goey, who was signed last summer from Fevenoord for £2.2m, a Dutch record for a goalkeeper, admits he had early problems. "It was difficult in the heginning." he said as we sat in the canteen at Chelsea's training ground in west London. Scarching for the diplomatic phrase, he explained: "Players are allowed more contact against the goalkeeper than in Holland, so I have to protect myself more. I am improving and can improve more. As for that goal against Southampton... I went to play the ball to Frank Sinclair but he was looking the other way so I took one more touch - but I did not see the striker."

"When he came he needed to adapt to Eddie Niedzwiecki, Chelsea's goalkeeping coach and, before injury brought a premature end to his career, their last consistently good goalkeeper. .

"I know people had their questionmarks over him when he first came but it always takes time: it is a lot quicker here, there are higger crowds and probably more pressure. He's taken the challenge on board and done very well. His performances in the last couple of weeks show how he's improved. He's commanding his

"I've been working with him on crosses. Over here players hit the goalkeeper a lot more than in Holland. I go to see most of the opponents so I can inform him on various aspects of the game that might day game and that has developed. He was



Talt order: Ed de Goey now ranks as Chelsea's first-choice goalkeeper after an uncertain start in the Premiership

Photograph: Robert Hallam

gers he might face in a game. "One of the things he had not really done in Holland was work on footwork in terms of the quick movement across the goal. That's very important in the everyoccur: corners, free-kicks, whether they hit already good with his feet on the ball,

diagonal halls into feet, the various dan- despite the Southampton goal. He has also lost a stone in weight and feels better for

> signed him and had confidence in him. We've worked hard and you are now seeing an outstanding goalkeeper who is performing at the highest level."

be on duty at the other end tomorrow. Peter Schmeichel is the first name De Goey "Roud knew what he wanted when he mentions when we talk about other goalkeepers, and Niedzwiecki added: "Schmeichel is held in great esteem. He's come here and is now dominating the art of goalkeeping. The best are judged on clean this season and De Goey said: "It is a tough

The benchmark will, fitness permitting, sheets and the number of mistakes they make in a season: the men who make one or two stay at the top. Schmeichel has presence, he commands his area and consistently produces important saves. That is

what we are looking to emulate." Chelsea and United have drawn twice game hut a nice one. The last couple of games we've had difficulties with small teams who press us and do not allow us to play our football. Manchester United and Chelsea are teams that want to play football so it should be good game. I would love to play at Wembley in the final. I saw it last year on television. I do most years, and the traditions, the crowd, the atmosphere, is fantastic. But while the FA Cup is important, and we want to defend it well, it is it just one of four competitions we are

"It could he important psychologically [to win] as we've had a couple of bad results. We may be seven points behind Manchester United in the League hut it is a long season. They have the Champions' League to play and have to come to Stamford Bridge.

Had it not been for a club tour by his then rivals, Ajax, De Goey might not have been at the Bridge to welcome them. Having broken into the Dutch team at the tail end of Gullit's international career in 1992 he played 27 consecutive matches, including five in the 1994 World Cup, hefore being dropped. Capped once in 1996 he won his 29th cap against South Africa in June, as Edwin van der Sar was in South America with Ajax. Ruud Gullit was also there, to receive an award from Nelson Mandela. De Goey played well and, on the plane back, Gullit asked him if he was interested in joining Chelsea. "I signed three days later," he said.

De Goey, 31 last month, was brought up in Gouda and played five season with Sparta Rotterdam before moving to Feyenoord, the club he followed as a boy. There he won a championship and four cups. But he was looking to move - Everton were interested - and feels his international chances will benefit. "I can develop my game here and there are no easy games. In Holland you go to some teams knowing you are going to win. Not here. Sometimes in Holland I did not touch the ball in the game.

"I love it here. My family are settled and the people are very kind: they give you privacy. We are in Windsor. From my curtains I can almost see the castle.

Socially, the De Goeys see Torc Andre Flo, Mark Hughes and Frode Grodas, all of whom live nearby. Ken Monkou is an old friend and dinner with the Bergkamps is in the diary. De Goey's son, three in a few months' time, is down for nursery school (but not for Eton) and De Goey is becoming so Anglicised he sometimes has trouble remembering Dutch words. He does not, incidentally, speak in Dutch to Gullit - It would seem strange to the other players."

One adjustment that had to be made was Christmas football. The Dutch league shuts for winter and playing on Boxing Day. s important as Chris calender, was strange. Not that De Goey had trouble abstaining from the Christmas pleasures. He is teetotal, initially from not liking the taste, now also for fitness. "When we go out I am always driving," he said. "Everybody will be drinking and they will say, 'You can drive, Eddie. You're not drinking'."

The autograph hunters, whom De Goey, a modest and courteous man, had earlier ohliged, have now drifted away. In one corner two journalists wait to speak to Roherto Di Matteo, who is notoriously slow to emerge after training. In another Estelle Cruyff waits with their haby for Gullit. De Goey, 6ft, 6in in stockinged feet, lopes off to the showers, a quiet man preparing for a noisy afternoon tomorrow.

ISLEY V BOLLON

WINNELL FORESE

Bayern twice came a cropper against village sides

Cup starts in earnest today.

The final itself apart, the third round of the FA Cup is the highlight of the football season. It is, as the cliché for the Compaq Cup, the Hungoes, the great leveller, the day on which the underdog, so revered in the English psyche. is due its day. And, despite the most other European nations, paucity of major giantkilling the domestic cup competition acts in the last five years, Chesterfield's antics last season restored faith in the concept of the FA Cup as the our, far less the magic and the proverbial banana skin for romance, of the FA Cup. the Premiership fat cats.

pattern of play - that we like to The English have always been renowned for having a nice line but when it comes to the FA Cup we certainly know how to blow our own trumpets.

The FA Cup is the world's oldest domestic cup competition, unsurpassed by any domestic competition in any country anywhere in the world, tts status was underlined by the cries of "Sacrosanct!" which greet-

With all due respect to the clubs by Littlewoods Pools, although who started their qualifying its pioneer Charles William campaigns last August, the FA Alcock must still have shifted uneasily in his grave).

Nowhere else, however, do they have such qualms; hence the reason the Danes compete garians for the Samsung Cup and the Dutch for the Amstel Cup. However, in these, and in is regarded as little more than a free ticket into Europe; few have the characteristic glam-

Take Betgium, where La It is for that reason - par- Coupe was abandoned for ticularly in today's game, where over 30 years (between 1928 money invariably dictates the to 1953 and 1957 to 1963) until the carrot of European think of the FA Cup as unique. competition became 100 great to resist. However, it is still a low-key affair: the final is prein self-deprecating humour, ceded by the women's equivalent and you can actualty

huy a ticket on the day. Or Switzerland, where it's Frankly, we've every right to. apparently customary for second and third-round ties to be held at tiny provincial grounds.

Or the Netherlands, where the KNVB Beker is small-fry to clubs like Ajax and PSV, who, as in ttaly, regard the league ed the notion of sponsorship (at - as the true barometer of form.



BLAIR ON THE UNIQUE ATTRACTION

OF THE

FA CUP and Serie B teams plus to from Serie C and totally ignores the lower echelons of the Italian League. Teams like Bologna. Vicenza and Fiorentina might regard it as a welcome chance hut, for the likes of Juve, Milan and Inter, defeat in the cup

hardly constitutes a crisis. It is a similar story in France, at least according to Chris Waddle, who was in the Marscilles side which lost 1-0

knocked out it's a scalp, but certainly not a disaster." He says that the beauty of the FA Cup lies not just in the glantkilling possibilities but in the lure of a Wembley final. "We played the French Cup final in the Parc des Princes but I'd already played there twice that season, so it meant nothing."

David and Goliath, mean-

while, obviously have no place in Spanish folklore since the Spanish Cup is traditionally dominated by the giants; for the smaller clubs it's more a money-making than a reputation-building exercise. Castilla did shock Spanish football by reaching the final in 1980. hut they faced Real Madrid which is like Manchester Unitonly competed for hy Serie A ed playing Manchester United reserves - and a 6-1 hammering put paid to any high-falutin' ideas they might have entertained. (Spanish tetevision, incidentally, gets amazingly high viewing figures to capture some silverware, for FA Cup matches and Canal+, which screened Margate's second-round match

as well as extended highlights). Trust the Germans to try to spoil the party, but the DFB to Monaco in the 1991 French Pokal, the German Cup, is ad-Cup final. Waddle maintains mittedly the one domestic cup least the concession was made Mind you. La Coppa in no way the French Cup "isn't really competition that rivals the FA to call it the FA Cup, sponsored resembles the FA Cup; it is one for the big boys; if they get Cup in the sense that it is or rather than later...

with Fulham live, will be show-

ing three live third-round ties

factor for the leading clubs: the seeded first round is drawn so that no two teams from the same division play each other, and the lower division side always plays at home, guaranteeing upsets galore and plenty of money at grass-roots level. Bayern Munich have twice come a cropper against village sides during the 1990s, while the Third Division side Eintracht Trier have reached this season's

semi-final stage, disposing of

Schalke 04 and Borussia Dortmund in the process. Of course, last season's "family" Scottish Cup final between Kilmaruock and Falkirk breathed new life into what was a relatively tired old institution, hut Rangers' Brian Laudrup, who won a Danish Cup medal with Brondby in 1989 and a Scottish Cup medal with Rangers in 1996, still maintains there is nothing to touch the FA Cup. Laudrup says the Danish Cup "never gathers momentum until the semi-finals, the Italian Cup is a non-event and, though the Scottish Cup invokes plenty of passion, nothing can com-

pare with the FA Cup." If recent transfer speculation is anything to go hy. Laudrup might get his chance to play in the world's greatest domestic competition sooner

Jack and Bull still waiting to realise a golden dream

Feethams, Darlington, away. As fields of dreams go, it's no Molineux and it's certainly not Wemhley. But, if Sir Jack Hayward is finally to see his cherished dream of Wolves lifting the FA Cup realised then we must not, dare not, lose today. For Sir Jack, approaching 75, time is slowly running out.

He still he awaits his day in the sun, £40m of the family fortune on. How he must envy Jack Walker and John Hall. True, his millions have made Molineux a modern stadium worthy of its Fifties legends; indeed, the magnificent bronze statue of the incomparable Billy Wright which stands outside the main entrance acts as a daily reminder to all who enter of their heritage and of our expectations of them. The team, though, remain infuriatingly on the fringe of making that final promotion step.

waited patiently (1983-84 was our last season in the top flight), and in considerable numbers (Molineux hasn't seen a League gate under 20,000 in over four years) we can, if necessary, wait a dream. few more years yet. Sir Jack Hayward cannot.

And nor, now aged 32, can Steve Bull. Bully will miss to-sense of pride both in itself the English gent.

the team that sold him to us our dark days in the Fourth Division. He is the only memnumber of offers to leave in the interim; had he done so, more England caps and some winners' medals could be sit-

> FAN'S EYE VIEW NO 238 WOLVES CHARLES ROSS

ting on his mantlepiece. But they're not there. Instead, he'll be sitting at the front of the team bus today, club captain and chief cheerleader, For all that, the fans have stuck frustratingly on 299 goals in a Wolves shirt. The circle, that black No 9 redelay is only adding to the sense of anticipation - the scenes when the next one goes in will be the sort about which Ian Wright can only

Between them, Wolver-

Third round day and it's day's game with a knee injury. and in its most cherished in-"He hopes to make the stitutioo. If Sir Jack has recomeback at the end of this newed the infrastructure, our month in the Black Country body - then Bully has given derby against West Brom - us back our heart and soul.

Mark McGhee's job sehack in November 1986, in curity depends on Wolves getting promotion. With another campaign in the Diviber of the playing staff left sion From Hell not past the from a time we couldn't pay half-way point, it looks like the milkman. He has had any the play-offs at best. I'm not sure if I could take another failure at that hurdle (itwould be our third in four anguished seasons); hut God only knows what such a disappointment would mean to Messrs Hayward and Bull.

If yet another season ultimately ends in tears, few Wolves fans will be shedding them for McGhee or for themselves. But they will for two men who have each given us more than we can ever begin to repay. When we kick off that first Premiership match at Motineux, then it must he with Steve Bull standing there in the centre splendent on his Old Gold shirt. And when a Wolves captain lifts the FA Cup, it must be with Sir Jack standing proudly there in the Royal Box, justifiably beside himself as schoolboy excitehampton's two favourite sons ment for once overcomes have given back the town a the supreme good manners of.

مكذا من الاحل

23/FA CUP

rsity Fairclough's men have to brave the fair times and foul

Stevenage Borough's travails are the stuff of footballing nightmares. Mike Rowbottom finds the non-League club hoping their fortunes will change for the better, starting with today's FA But while the FA Cup Cup third-round meeting with Swindon.

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ays later, he said

Bob Gristwood has supported Stevenage football club for 35 of his 45 years. Which means he has followed Stevenage Town, who went bankrupt, and Stevenage Athletic, who went bank-

And more recently, Stevenage Borough, who went all the way to the top of the non-League pile two years ago only to be told they could not join the Pootball League because their ground had not been upgraded by the 31 December deadline.

That is a blow from which Steverage, one of only four non-League survivors in this weekend's FA Cup third round, have not yet recovered.

lashed main stand at the club's Broadhall Way ground on New Year's Day, this anything-butfair-weather fan was probably reflect on his experience.

times." he said. "It would have nice for the chib to have gone act together in time."

partly down to the local authonty, which failed to supply its promised lion's share of the £1.6m cost on time.

For all the frustrations involved, however, Gristwood has nessed by almost 8,000 of their remained a loyal fan, and he will be among several thousand Borough supporters boarding coaches this morning for the two-hour journey down the M4 to Swindon, where Steve McMahon's First Division championship contenders await their team.

and last season they got to the third round, beating Leyton Orient before losing 2-0 at Birmingham City in a match wittravelling supporters. That record earned them an

automatic place in this year's first round, and after beating Carshalton, they put out Third Division Cambridge United in a replay at Broadhall Way.

But the man who scored the

personal frustration of being left on the bench as Harlow Town defeated Southend United and Leicester City in their FA Cup run of 1979, has had to renew the heart of his team this season.

After the anticlimax of their Vauxhall Conference-winning year, Stevenage persuaded their best performers - skipper Paul Barroweliff, Nigerian youth international midfielder Efetobor Sodje, and leading scorer Bar-

severe fixture build-up.

ry Hayles - to stay for one more will. for £250,000.

of their own success in other competitions - their progress to the FA Cup third round and the FA Trophy semi-final caused a Last summer, however, saw

Barrowcliff join Brentford for £55,000, Sodje, who has ambitions of making Nigeria's World Cup squad, join Macclesfield for a knock-down £35,000, and Hayles move to Bristol Rovers, for whom he is now scoring at Green denied that any of

filled ground requirements, led to a Football Association inquiry which, last April, imposed a £25,000 suspended fine on Two further things came out Stevenage.

of that court case, and only one was to Stevenage's credit, Although the judge was unable to accept their plea, because a precedent bad been set in earlier cases involving Kidderminster Harriers and Macclesfield Town, he accepted many of their arguments, and the League subsequently shifted its deadline three months further backwards.

Had the other main Conference contender, Woking, But evidence given in court by Torquay United, who had prevailed, they would have tak-

retained their League Status in 1996 because the Vauxhall Concause their ground was already ference champions had not fulup to standard. Stevenage have picked them-

season - hampered by several unfortunate injuries to a couple The FA, with the benefit of of new signings - they bave found themselves struggling at recorded telephone conversaan unfamiliar end of the table. tions, confirmed the allegations by Torquay's chairman, For Fairclough, who has Mike Bateson, that Stevenage known almost perennial success since taking over the club had attempted to obtain a

£20,000 "incentive" for their in the depths of the old Isthmiplayers to win the title even though they had missed the ground improvement deadline.

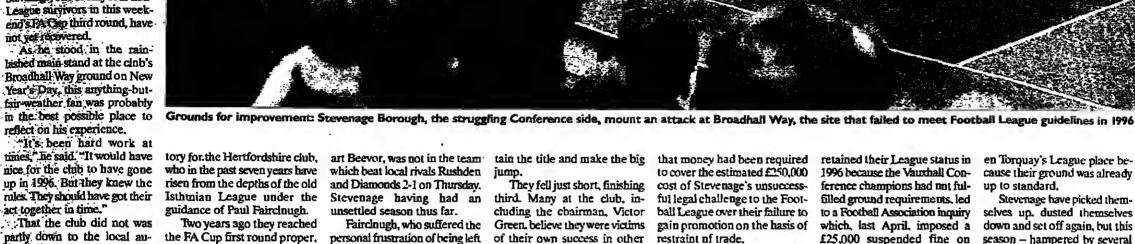
legacy of 1996 cannot be ignored. "If I said I am over it, I would be lying. I will never get over it.

down and set off again, but this

en Torquay's League place be- nage. But it hasn't taken any edge off me. It's made me more determined," be said.

Today he will be hoping that selves up, dusted themselves the opportunism of Gary Crawshaw, who took a year off from foothall to travel the world in 1994, or Giuliano Grazioli. a recent signing from Peterborough, will catch Swindon out.

Fairclough has a novel theory about how non-League clubs should be rewarded for FA Cup success in future. Any clubs reaching the third round, an League seven years ago, the he believes, should be given lucrative automatic ties against the likes of Manchester United, Liverpool and Chelsea. Someuntil such time as I am in the how, you cannot see the FA Football League with Steve- leaping at the idea.



This is not uncharted terri- winning goal. 23-year-old Stuseason to see if they could re-FA CUP THIRD ROUND

Arsenal v Port Vale

through injury. Platt came through a light training session yesterday, but will still miss the tie due to the groin strain he picked up in Arsenal's 2-1 win over Leicester on Boxing Day. Down has also strained his groin, in the north London derby last Sunday. Initially the injury was not thought to be serious, but further examination revealed that the right-back has no chance of playing. Gilles Grimandi is likely to deputise. Port Vale manager John Rudge will keep Arsenal walting before naming his side, who have lost six consecutive League matches. Neil Aspin, Dean Glover and Matt Carragher all came through a practice match this week. Mark Sniders is favourite to partner Andy Hill at centre-back

Barnsley v Bolton Barnsley do not expect to make any changes

for today from the side that drew 2-2 with Botton on Boxing Day. Barnsley manager Danny Wilson has no injury problems and a fully fit squad except for long-term problems with centre back Steve Davis and reserve keeper Tony Bullock, Bolton have Alan Thompson back in contention for today and he is likely to start, but striker Dean Holdsworth is doubtful with a leg injury. Peter Beardsley is almost certain to partner Nathan Blake up front. Icelandic striker Arnar Gunnlaugsson has had eight stitches in a head wound but is fit and available to play. Defender Gerry Taggart is ruled out with a groin strain. Goalkeeper Keith Branagan is still suffering with his groin and reserve keeper Gavin Ward takes over again.

Blackburn v Wigan

Patrick Valery returns to the Blackburn side today after full-back Gary Croft was ruled out yesterday by a back injury. Scottish internationals Colin Hendry and Kevin Gallacher passed fit after injury scares, so Roy Hodgson seems likely to keep faith with the team who drew with Crystal Palace last Sunday, aside from Valery replacing Croft. Billy McKinlay is still missing. He is serving his final match of a two-game suspension. Wigan striker Graeme Jones is back in the squad after suspension. Club physio Simon Farnworth is also included as cover for goalkeeper Roy Carroll, Regular deputy Lee Butter is serving a one-match ban.

Charlton v Nottm Forest

Charlton welcome back Matt Holmes into the squad to face Forest. The midfielder has missed three games with a knee ligament injury. Charlton are the First Division's top scorers with 46 goals, and in fourth place, are not far behind Forest. They may recall Mark Bright. Nottingham Forest manager Dave Bassett has injury doubts over four key players. Leading scorer Pierre van Hooijdonk (groin), winger Steve Stone (knee), Andy Johnson (ankle) and Scottish international Scot Gemmill (rih) are all causing Bassett concern. He is already resigned to being without Ian Woan, who suffered a thigh injury in last Sunday's win at Manchester City. Thierry Bonalair is expected to replace him.

Cheltenham v Reading

time in 64 years, lost their first game in 27 matches on Thursday to Yeovil, but should start. with 40-year old Clive Walker, the former Sunderland League Cup finalist and inspiration to non-League Woking With Phil Parkinson, still out through suspension, Reading are expected to play with the side which drew 1-1 at **QPR** last Sunday.

C Palace v Scunthorpe

Marc Edworthy returns for Palace after suspension, Bruce Dyer will possibly feature after recovering from the ankle injury, but Neil Shipperley is extremely doubtful with a grain strain and Attilio Lombardo and Michele Padovano are out. Scunthorpe defender Michael Walsh, stretchered off against Notis County on Boxing Day with badly bruised ribs. may start, Lee Marshall (knee) is out, while, defender Sean McAuley is almost certain to neturn and partner Ross Wilcox, who was sent off at the Deva Stadium, Goalkeeper Tom Evans, who was at Palace last season for a short spell, will also be on the bench.

Derby v Southampton

Derby's Dean Sturridge misses today's match through injury so Deon Burton comes in up front, Jacob Laursen is also on the casualty list and will not play Igor Stimac returns at the back. Robbie Kozluk replaces the suspended Stefano Eranio. Egil Ostenstad is likely to be on the bench for Southampton. Kevin Davies was recalled in place of Ostenstad against Chelsea on Monday and is set to keep his place alongside David Hirst in attack after scoring the winner. Saints have slight injury doubts about defender Claus Lundekvarn and midfielder Carl-

Leeds v Oxford

Leeds are without David Robertson (suspended) and Portuguese midfielder Bruno Ribeiro (knee) but manager George Graham has Gary Kelly and Alf-Inge Haland available after suspension. Defender lan Harte is included in the squad. Oxford's new manager Malcolm Crosby is likely to name an unchanged team as his First Division underdogs visit Elland Road. Striker Nicky Banger has failed to recover from a groin injury so Crosby will probably stick to the team which drew I-I with Sunderland. Crosby's last run in the FA Cup as a manager took him all the way to Wembley with Sunderland in 1992.

Leicester v Northampton

Leicester could be without captain Steve Walsh, who is recovering from a harnstring injury but lan Marshall should be back in the side after recovering from a hernia operation. Northampton manager lan Atkins will wait for late fitness tests on Roy Hunter (groin), Colin Hill (groin), Ray Warburton (ankle) and Charlie Bishop (ankle) before naming his team. Atkins expects all four to be fit for his side, who needed a penalty shoot-out to beat off non-League Basingstoke in the second round, but are currently third in the Second Division.

Liverpool v Coventry

change Roy Evans has had to make to the side during their winning run of four straight League matches has been the return of Paul Ince in injury. David James holds his place in goal, leaving American Brad Friedel on the bench for the third game in succession. Paul Williams returns for Coventry after suspension. Despite having the worst disciplinary record in the Premiership - one sending off and nine yellow cards - his influence has been missed, with Coventry securing just one win during his absences.

Portsmouth v Aston Villa

Brian Little will be boosted by the return of Stan Collymore, Gareth Southeate and Julian loachim, who have all resumed training after illness caused them to miss last Sunday's 1-1 draw at Leeds. Defender Adnan Whithread is expected to recover from injury in time to captain struggling Portsmouth. Whithread has been forced to miss the last three games with a hip injury but is set to return with David Waterman expected to make way. Multielder David Hillier is still recovering from a bad injury while central defender Russell Perrett is still strug gling to overcome a linee problem.

Swindon v Stevenage

Swindon will be without on-loan Liverpool midfielder David Thompson, who is cupited if evin Watson and Lee Collins are in contention to replace him in midfield. Veteran defender Brian Borrows is out with a knee ligament injury and French midfielder Philippe Cuervo is still recovering from surgery on a hip. Former Wycombe midfielder Simon Stapleton looks to have played himself into Stevenage's line up for today. He impressed in the I lew lear's Day win over Rushden and Diamonds - Stevenage's first league win in six games. Stapleton joined the Hertfordshire team from Pushden three weeks ago, and should feature.

Watford v Sheff Wednesday

Watford manager Graham Taylor is hoping to complete an FA Cup double against Ron Atlunson ló years after his Watford side beat Atl inson's Manchester United in the competition. Watford, who have led the Second Division since the start of the season, have no significant injury womes. Sheffield Wednesday will have top scorer Paolo Di Canio back from a two-match ban. Norwegian midfielder Petter Rudi is doubtful with a bad strain.

West Ham v Emley

French international goall eeper Bernard Lama will be on the substitutes' bench for West Ham after Craig Forrest's recent form has kept him. in the side. Captain Steve Lomas is suspended, while Eyal Berliovic is fit after a knee in jury, John Moncur faces a fitness test on a hamstring strain. Emiley, who have said today's match is their World Cup final, are likely to field the same side that won through to this match, with policeman I-feil Lacey guarding the defence and postman Glynn Hurst hoping to deliver an upset in attack...

... and elsewhere

Bournemouth's side for their match against Huddersfield at Dean Court, Bailey has missed place of Jamie Carragher after suspension and the last two matches through suspension but is set to return to the right side of midfield. Former Southampton player Christer Warren is likely to be moved up from midfield to partner Steve Fletcher in attack with on-loan Charlton striker Steve Jones cup tied.

> Ipswich have England Under-21 striker James Scowcroft back after a three-match ban for their game at Bristol Rovers, Jason Cundy is

> Cardiff Cit is hopes of including former Bristel City striken kevin I Jugent in their squad for their game against Oldham at Ninian Park, have been dashed due to an ankle injury. Oldham could be without four regular first team players Former Tranmere defender Shaun Garnett is suspended while Neil Thompson is Cure-ned Australian defender Doug Hodgson and Lee Sinnett are both struggling to over-

Birmingham will check on the fitness of striker Paul Devlin after making the short trip to talle on First Division rivals Crewe. Devlin has been struggling with a virus that has forced him. out of the squad for City's last two games. Birmrigham's manager Trevor Francis is trying to turn the loan move of the Southampton leftback Simon Charlton into a permanent £250,000 deal as loan players are ineligible for FA Gup ties. Michael Johnson is on alert to take over from Charlton Crewe record signing Dave Walton is back after a six-week layoff with damaged and le ligaments. He is likely to be Dano Gradis only change from the team that drew at Bury on Sunday.

Wolverhampton Wanderers' Finnish international striker Mixu Paatelainen is standing by to start his first game for more than two months in the game with Darlington at Feethams Teenage forward Pobble Feane will be available after injury. Experienced Darlington striker Carl Shutt is almost certain to be unfit. The are also included in the 17-man squad. 36-year-old former Leeds player is struggling to recover from the thigh strain that has kept him out for a month. Andy Crosby and lason Devos are missing from the Qualiers' defence because of bans and the on-loan pair Lawrence Davies and Craig Midgley also miss out

Horwich captain lifatt Jackson is ruled out of the treat Comstr. with an ankle injury. Winger Adman Forties, who picked up a knock on the thigh against Poi temouth in midweek, is also out which may mean Daryl Sutch being pushed straight back into action after a five match absence with a thigh strain. Fit-again defender Crarg Fleming, who has suffered a series of inyurly setbacks since has close season move from Gidlium looks set to deputise for Jackson.

Winger John Bailey is poised for a recall to Defender Damen Moore, who has missed the last three matches with a hamstong injury, is still unfit which means that 18-year-old Andrew O'Brien continues to deputise. Manchester City manager Frank. Clark will hope his side can start a Cup run against Bradford which could lift the gloom hanging over Maine Road. There are doubts over the fitness of Wales defender hit Symons, still recovering from a hamstring in-

Walsall goalkeeper James Walter is doubtful for the game at Peterborough. He was kicked on the head in last week's Second Division game at Morthampton, if he doesn't make it 19-yearold Danny Maisbitt will make his debut. Midfielder Gary Porter has recovered from a knodin time to play and the Saddlers could recall shipper Derel Mountfield to the defence.

Nottingham Forest.

Stockport captain Mike Flynn misses the return to his old dub as County travel to Preston. Flynn Imped out of last Sunday's league defeat at if-iddlesbrough and his side are also in danger of losing record signing Paul Cook. The former Wolves midfielder will undergo a late fitness test. Top scorer Lee Ashcroft could make a welcome return to the Preston North End starting line-up. The former West Brom forward has missed Prestons's last five games with a harmstring strain, but he resumed full training this week. Manager Gary Peters, whose offer to resign was turned down by the Preston board earlier this week; has fitness worries over several players, but has refused to name the men in question.

Queen's Park Rangers will be without defender George Kulcsar for the visit of Middlesbrough to Loftus Road. The Australian will be out of action for six weeks after badly twisting his knee and ankle. Gavin Peacock (knee) and Trevor Sinctair (chest) were doubtful, but both are expected to play. Middlesbrough are without Gianluca Festa, so Steve Vickers returns. Three of Boro's youth team graduates - Andy Campbell, Steve Baker and Craig Harrison -

Sheffield United manager Nigel Spackman faces a detensive crisis for the game against Bury with David Holdsworth, Paul McGrath and Michael Vonk are all out injured. Bury manager Stan Ternent will have to juggle with his squad. Six first teamers are out of action - Paul Butler and Peter Swan (suspended). Tony Ellis (cuptied) and Dean West, Rob Matthews and David

West Bromwich Albion midfielder Ian Hamilton returns against Stoke at the Hawthoms. while Stoke manager Chic Bates is expected to name an unchanged team. Bates is likely to keep faith with the team which drew at the Hawthoms in the league on Sunday with Marco Gabbiadini again on the bench alongside fit again Ray Wallace.

Captain Wayne Jacobs is set to return to Brad- Tomorrow

Chelsea v Man Utd

BY NICK HARRIS

Ruud Gullit will resist the temptation to start with himself in tomorrow's line-up, but he is lillely to be on the bench. The Cup holders are without the suspended Dennis Wise and Frank Sinclair, Frank: Leboeuf returns at the back after missing Monday's 1-0 defeat at Southampton through flu, with Steve Clarke set to move across to nght-back. Paul Hughes or Mark Nichalls seem set to fill Wise's midfield spot. jury, and Tony Vaughan, who suffered concussion during Sunday's 3-2 defeat by while Gullit will pair former Red I-lant. Hughes and Gianfranco Zola. Peter Schmeichel may be fit for the visitors, but a decision will not be made until the last moment. Levin Pill ington is on standby to continue in goal. Denis irwin returns after a two-month absence with his knee ligament injury and he will slot in at left-back in place of the suspended Phil Neville. Ronny Johnsen is struggling with a thigh

Everton v Newcastle

Danny Williamson is back in contention for Everton. Williamson has trained for the past two days after recovering from a hamstring problem. But Everton manager Howard Kendali must manage without Craig Short, who has failed to shrug off a hamstring injury in time. Captain Gary Speed, the subject of failed transfer bids from Newcastle and Sheffield Wednesday this week, is still out. Damen Peacock seems certain to return for Newcastle after injury, but Steve Howey (leg injury) and Belgian Philippe Albert (suspension) are unavailable. Newcastle will also have to do without suspended England midfielder David Batty and defender Warren Barton, who has picked up a new harnstring injury.

Hereford v Tranmere

Hereford will be without cup tied striker Richard Leadbeater and goalf-eeper Andy Quy. Leadheater, who scored a hat-trick in Hereford's 4-1 win at Kidderminster Harners on New Year's Day, will be replaced by either Tony Agana or James McCue. Tranmere striker Gary Jones is the only doubt for Rovers as the First Division dub look to avoid the potential banana skin of going out to non-League opposition. Jones picked up an antile injury in a training match so player-manager John Aldridge may put himself on the substitutes' bench as standby for the noon kick-off. Otherwise Tranmere are likely to start with the side which drew at Birmingham in the league.

Wimbledon v Wrexham Wimbledon will be looking to recover from

the 2-1 home defeat against West Ham last weekend as they take on Second Division Wrexham, Wrexham will go into the game without captain Tony Humes. Humes broke a bone in his right arm against Wigan on Boxing Day and will be out for at least a month. The Welsh side, who reached the quarter-finals last season, may also be without expenenced midfielder Peter Ward who faces a late fitness test after limping off with an ankle injury at Blackpool last week,

Sea

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Saturday 3 January 1998

Romance in the air as **Emley dream** of a Cup fling

Emley has become England's most famous village since Ambridge as its team of part-timers prepare to tackle West Ham, while any giantkilling at Chelsea will be inflicted by one Goliath on another.

As the FA Cup's annual slay ride begins in earnest at the third round stage, Phil Shaw examines the prospects for the great and the small and those in between.

Twenty-four hours and as many Underground stops apart, London stages two ties this weekend which epitomise in vastly different ways the charisma of the FA Cup. And no one personifies the competition's enduring appeal hetter than a time-honoured pursuit of conpair nf strikers from opposite ends of the foothall spectrum.

Glynn Hurst is a 21-year-old postman who has spent the past month dreaming of delivering the upset of the third round, and arguably of all time, when the Yorkshire village people of Emley descend nn West Ham tnday. A failed Tottenham apprentice who was also freed by Barnsley, he claims to owe his acceleration to dodging dngs with a full

sack nn his back. Mark Hughes did not fulfil his boybood amhltion either, but then four FA Cup winners'

help the holders, Chelsea, take the new year's honours against the favourites, his former cluh Manchester United.

The size of the task facing Emley's firemen, hrickies and salesmen can be gauged from the fact that they lie 11th in the UniBond League, below such hallowed names as Guiseley and Winsford, whereas West Ham stand eighth in the Premiership. Still, they will have a following of 3,000 - from a population of 1,800 - and where hetter than Upton Park for a G Hurst to demonstrate his scoring prowess?

The hattle of Stamford Bridge, like tomorrow's meeting of Everton and Newcastle. matches two clubs who have won the coveted old pot 11 times between them. Those élitists who advocate seeding in the Cup would away with such draws at this early juncture. Yet the thought that either Chelsea or United will be left to the

centrating on the League while lesser lights edge closer to Wembley encapsulates the beauty of the competition.

Hughes, whose team-mates have been bowing in mock obeisance and calling bim "Sir"

ROUND since his gnug was annnunced, said: "It's a shame nue nf us has in go oul so soon, but if we can beat United we'll have put nut the best team in the country. ft's a lnt like last year when we played Liverpool, and hopefully we can get the same result."



London-bound: Emley and their supporters gather in the village yesterday before boarding coaches for today's FA Cup-tie against West Ham

Photograph: Simon Wilkinson

attle ii
the foi

ly, while the Vauxhall Conference survivors did nnt receive vision opponents close. the money-spinning trip to Old Trafford or Anfield they craved, all three have a realis-

Hereford, whose manager Graham Turner reckons nne big draw could wipe nut their debts "overnight", would doubtless be more confident of seeing off Tranmere tomorrow if the nn-loan Richard Leadbeater were available. He scored a hat-Irick at Kidderminster on Thursday, but Wnives do not want him cup-tied. The veter-The lie, in which Denis Irwin an Thny Agana stands by after

makes his long-awaited return a long absence through injury. eltenham receive Reading for never having played for where a Premiership side must just 48 hours after their 25- keeper after scoring the Third back of six consecutive First Di- coming Oxford, who wan a re- on Bradford with pressure are, one suspects, more likely Wrexham. Tomorrow, in his go out. However, a spot of un-match unbeateo run was ruined Division club's penalty winner in vision defeats and with a solitary play there four years ago. unnunting on the manager, to involve bearts and dreams. first match since being named intentinual seeding has ensured at Yeovil, hut should draw suf- the second round. Suspension goal to show for 672 minutes' play. Crystal Palace's wreighed bome Frank Clark. an MBE, he will be striving to that 13 of the 20 learns from the ficient inspiration from their would have prevented him fac-

top division are at home. Equal- first appearance at this stage since 1934 to run their First Di-Stevenage have the hardest

task, away tn Swindon in a contest which pits two managerial Merseysiders, Steve McMahnn tic chance of going further. and Paul Fairclough, against each other. The part-timers will be huoyed by the memory of how they scared Birmingham City 12 mnnths ago. The nccasinn is also tailor-made for Ryan Kirby, who played with David Beckham in Chingford Under-9s football, to redeem himself after two dismissals in

ing his former club Wolves, only for the ban in be rescinded after a refereeing rethink.

Feethams will he an even greater culture shock for Mark McGhee's men than if they were visiting non-League territory. The players change in cahins and the showers are cold, while the demoliting of the main stand means there are spectators nn only three sides -not unlike Molineux before its magnificent facclift.

Any complaints Port Vale have after taking nn Arsenal are unlikely to concern the facilities. Vale, who list Spurs, Southamp-Darlington's Darren Roberts tnn. Derby and Everton among was also sent nff last mnnth, fnr their Cup victims over the past allegedly kicking the Hednesford decade, go in Highbury on the feel entirely confident if over-

juries," said their manager, thorpe hope, while the derby at-John Rudge, "hut somehow I think they'll all declare themselves fit for this one."

Premiership nutfits at greater risk may include Aston Villa at Portsmnutb, whose Cup-fighting tradition belies their current parlous position, and Sheffield Wednesday at Watford Graham Taylor and Ron Atkinson, with half a century of accumulated experience in management between them, ought to know how to put nn a cracking tie.

Nor can Leeds, having suc-

cumbed at Elland Road in both Portsmnuth and Reading in knock-out football last year, "I've also had a lot of in- record should also give Scun-

mosphere could inspire Northamptoo at Leicester.

Meanwhile, Newcastle face the first of twn games in four days which could make or break their season - and with it Kenny Dalglish's reputation on Tyneside. After five defeats and no wins in their last seven Premiership fixtures - and 11 of the remaining 18 away - their visit tn Goodison and the ensuing Coca-Cola Cup quarter-final against Liverpool could be the prelude in an unthinkable relegatinn fight.

Manchester City, too, may be playing for mnre than simply a place in tnmnrrow's Stnke's service. fnnrth-mund draw. They take

West Brom and Stoke. Not only have the sides drawn twice this seasoo-extending Albion's run withnut a victory against their Staffordshire rivals to 17 matches-but Albion have failed to win in the Cup for five years. Stoke, moreover, have not knocked nnt League opposition since 1989 and have beateo only Bath

between five-times Cup-winners

finals in 1972 Adding spice to the occasion, the new manager at The Hawthorns, Denis Smith, is mnre Potteries than Wedgewood and proved it by fracturing nn fewer than 18 bones in

away since reaching the semi-

The breakages this weekend Fair times and foil for Stevenage, page 23

ELEVEN

Crisis, what crisis, as Gullit rules out return to playing arena

would put himself back in the or the physical condition." heart of the Chelsea team.

"I wouldn't bring myself into the starting side unless it was an emergency - and at the moment it's not an emergency," he said. "Of course I'd like to play. It's a

Chelsea will be facing a United side on the rebound from losing to Coventry, and Gullit feels they might be distracted by other commitments.

"They've got a lot of prioribig game, but I've only been ties, but the Champions' League

Rund Gullit yesterday ruled out training for four days. I still is the main one," he said. "At Mi-FA Cup transplant surgery which bave the vision, but not the pace lan that we did that after we won

the title for the second time. We focused on the European Cup. left the league for what it was, and won the Cup. I think that's normal and I can understand it. You can see they're more focused on those [Champinns' League] occasions. That's OK."

Seaman yesterday as his side prepared to take on Port Vale. The He's feeling unlucky at the mo-training. under fire for a series of below- cautious and that means acpar performances, hut Wenger believes Seaman will use today's game to confirm his reputation. "The critics have been too

DOWN

Cuts round chunk of

meat and chews (6)

Malcontent's for trial

Check with a Rook at

Highly active, Etna,

Key for compound (8)

Seasoned meat's done

drink, round measure,

15 Odd repartee, fruity sort

16 Is one to ring a girl? (8)

abandoned as escort (8)

19 Serious cut nn middle of

with last of chilli, about

amid fumes (8)

13 Vehicle has English

in boot (4.6)

of thing (4-4)

17 American heiress 1

20 Periodical carrying

French article on a

Spanish province (6)

cheek (6)

Record's withnut effect,

lacking a detailed refer-

leisure (6)

ence (10)

pound (8)

When he does they stand out. England goalkeeper has come ment but I've told him to be less cepting the odd error."

Wenger was also keen to put some off-the-field distractions behind the Gunners after Dutch

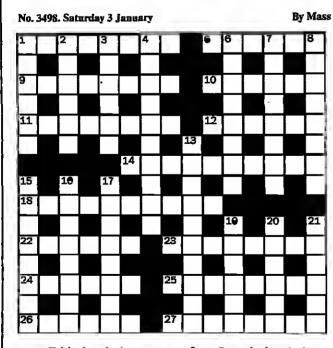
TENNIS

been a problem when Dennis ar- Cup. It's all about moderation." rived. However, his comments do

The Arsenal manager, Arsène harsh," be said. "People do not striker Dennis Bergkamp was re-Wenger, rallied behind David expect him to make mistakes. ported as saying he could smell It was on the players' initiative drink an team-mates before that alcohol was banned whenever we are logether as a team, "There is no problem with even if we've won. However, we professional behaviour at my should not get carried away. club, and that includes drinking." The Germans drink a lot of Wenger said. "There might have beer and they won the World

PAGES OF SPORT BEGIN ON PAGE 14[.]

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



Last Saturday's solution Friday's solution

ACROSS

Pacifist acquires medal and order for army unit 5 Decline, in a state, sec-

ond drink (4,2) Curh tots running wild. restrict movement (8) 10 Poorly housed in extensive unfinished dwellings

11 A setting for Egyptian customs? (4,4)

12 Trifle from page to amend (6) Like a player nn song?

Tell us about the penaltyl (2,4,4) 18 Affluence? Eyes treats suspiciously (4,6) 22 Audibly chatter in plane

23 Home's given detachment, comprehensively

24 À swell drum (6) 25 Dog's paraded, theo given drink (8) 26 Pass by the Spanish

church recess (6) 27 Briefly remove access in mission (8)

21 Fly, this Parisian cheat The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hardbacked copies of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P. O. Box 4018, The Independent, I. Cannada Square, Cannary Wharf, Loudon E14 SBL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: V Daver, Newton Abbot; J Taylor, Rutherham; T Jolly-Sailor, Hemington; M Montague-Smith, Ashton: P Murdin, Cambridge.

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Wills Moody dies at 92

Helen Wills Moody, who won eight Wimhledon titles, died yesterday in Carmel, California, at the age of 92.

Moody was known for hitting the hall harder than any woman. and ruled tennis in the 1920s and '30s.

Helen," she won 31 major titles . to the Caribbean this morning. including Wunhledon eight. Unfortunately they also left times, seven US Open titles and and retired after winning then having your incisors re-Wimbledon in 1938.

Moody, whose trademark white eyeshade hecame an drawal on New Year's Eve came enduring tennis fad, learned the as a surprise to Michael Athergame without ever taking a les- i ton, though the England captain soo - picking it up from watch- hinted that the fast howler ing players at the Berkeley could well rejoin the tour at a Tennis Club. A year after she started

playing at age 14, she won the first of her two girls national

medal in Paris in 1924, the last injury is part and parcel of the time tennis was an Olympic game. Ynu've just got to learn sport until 1988. She was in- to get on with it. Although ducted into the International Gnughie would definitely be Tennis Hall of Fame in 1969. one of the first-choice bowlers. Obituary, first section, page 16 it gives opportunities to others excellent chance of doing well, a little more distant.

CRICKET

'Queen Helen' Atherton's hopes for Gough Darren Gough may still play in the West Indies

this winter. As Derek Pringle reports, Michael Atherton was yesterday still holding out hope for England's best fast bowier.

Nicknamed "Little Miss: England's cricketers left holly Poker Face" and "Oueen and hurricanes behind to jet off behind their best bowler, which four French Opens. She won her on the face of it is a hit like befirst US championship in 1923 ing invited to a barbecue and moved.

Darren Gough's late withlater date should his hamstring problems clear up.

Speaking at the team's Gatwick hotel last night, a fit titles. She was just 17 when, in and relaxed-looking Atherton 1923, she won the US women's said: "Goughie's withdrawal is singles championship - the disappointing for us and him. youngest champion at the time. Since the South African tour, She won an Olympic gold he's been back to his best. But

like Angus Fraser who might and while it is difficult to prenot have been."

With the first Test not starting until 29 January, it will give ample time for the other bowlers in work out ways nf doing without him. Indeed, with Gough's injury not apparently structural, it is not out of the question that he could be declared fit during the tour.

"I spoke to him not long ago." Atherton said. "He's got hope in the back of his mind and he sees a specialist in about

IN MONDAY'S 20-PAGE SPORTS SECTION

Angus Fraser talks to lan Stafford about the task facing England in the West Indies

three or four weeks' time. If he

gets the all-clear, I don't see why he can't be available for the back end of the tour. The first Test isn't for another month."

Atherton, who has spent the last three weeks holidaying in Jamaica, is adamant that England have their hest chance in 30 years of beating the West Indies on home soil.

"The Pakistan result has certainly hit everyone pretty hard out there, hut as ever, they are looking forward to England

dict results, recent contests betweeo the two sides have been close and hard fought. Although they are not as strong as the sides of the Eighties, they shouldn't he underestimated at home.

"Playing at our best, as we did against Australia at Edgbaston and The Oval, we can beat aoyone. However, consisteocy is the key, and if we play like we did in the middle of last summer, we won't beat any

According to Atherton and those of his team who have played there before, the Caribbean is probably the best tour of all. But while their predecessors had hits chipped off them by an unrelenting pace attack, the current generation has grown up with an admitation and respect for the way West Indies cricket is played and watched.

It should make for a happy side and a happy captain, a consideration the selectors clearly had in mind when they confirmed Atherton as one-day captain as well. They knew that had they appointed Adam Hollicake instead that it might well niggle away at him, distracting him from the main task of win ning the Test series. Without the fast bowling of Darren Gought coming," he said. "We have an that objective has become just